

MAR 03 1998

THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

BBXNFMXY
400002915#
SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3660

CARRIER ROUTE 2-39
005-DTM 50000

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

FEBRUARY 26, 1998

VOL. 122
NO. 4

Start Something New
MINISTRY

**Week of Prayer
for North
American
Missions**
March 1-8, 1998

**ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING**
National Goal: \$42,000,000

WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

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Cuban Baptists to form own mission board

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. (BP) — While the world wonders what changes may come from Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba in late January, Baptists in the island nation are responding to God's spirit and moving to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

The Baptist Convention of Western Cuba voted to begin its own home and international missionary-sending agency during the denomination's annual meeting Feb. 4-7 in Havana.

In addition, at least 200 Cuban Baptists — about a fourth of those attending — made commitments to mission service during the closing session.

"It was like a river of people coming forward" to make commitments, said missionary Kurt Urbanek, Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) liaison for Cuba, who works out of an office in Coral Springs, Fla.

Urbanek attended the meeting and preached during simultaneous revival services in which 360 Cubans accepted Christ.

Western Cuban Baptists already are sending home missionaries, but the new mission board expects to improve that process and better support these workers, Urbanek said.

The board's leaders also hope to send missionaries — pending government permissions — to at least two other countries.

The denomination hasn't sent international missionaries since 1950.

As the convention shifts its focus back toward global missions, "My prayer is that Southern Baptists would make a commitment to pray daily for

Cuban Baptists, especially for the convention's leadership," Urbanek said.

"They are carrying a tremendous load right now — more than you can imagine."

Part of their load comes from a shortage of trained pastors. The convention's 65 pastors struggle to lead the work of 147 churches and 218 mission congregations.

Many pastors are leading three and four churches and riding a bike for miles between churches.

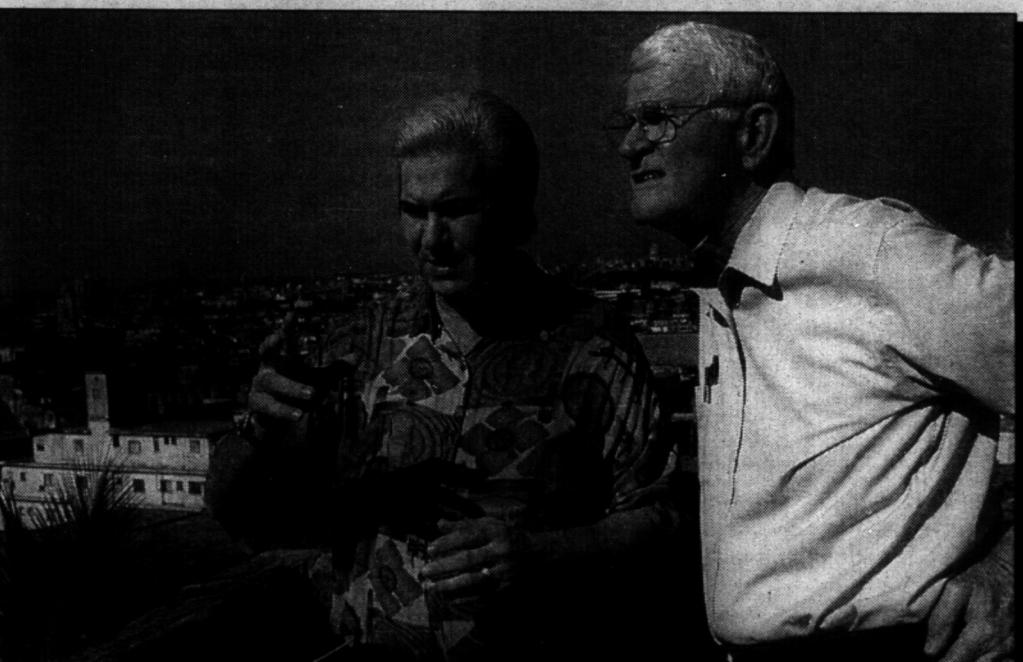
"They live on a level of faith we (U.S. Christians) don't really know," Urbanek said.

"We just depend on the Lord," said a young Baptist pastor in Cuba's Cienfuegos province.

"We go to him for everything. We preach that the Lord has the answer for all the people's needs."

"We're seeing how through our work, God himself is being glorified," said veteran pastor Hermes Soto, a professor at the Baptist seminary in Havana.

The seminary is filled to capacity with about 40 students and another 150 are on a waiting list, but new seminary-trained pastors barely cover normal pastoral attrition.



VIEW OF HAVANA — From the roof of the Baptist seminary in Havana, Cuban Baptist pastor Hermes Soto (right) points out the sights to Justice Anderson, professor of missions at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth. Anderson, a former Southern Baptist International Mission Board missionary to Argentina, has traveled to Cuba several times in recent years to train leaders and preach in Cuban Baptist churches. (BP photo by Terry McMahon)

That's why the convention recently began lay leadership training institutes in two cities — in which about 300 laypeople participate.

Three more institutes, all started with IMB assistance, are expected to open this year.

Plans also are under way to send some Southern Baptist seminary professors from the U.S. on short-term teaching assignments to these institutes and the seminary located in Havana.

Urbanek sees signs of a spiritual awakening on the island.

"People with no (religious) background are coming to the churches in droves," he said.

The prayers of Southern Baptists are especially important to Cuban Baptists right now, Urbanek said.

History teaches there's about a 10-year window of opportunity for reaping the evangelistic harvest from a spiritual awakening, he noted.

"We're about four years into that window in Cuba, so we really need to pray for their continued effectiveness in evangelism.

"Instead of maintaining a status quo, we want to help Cuban Baptists kick this growth up to a new level, so they are able to reach their full potential," said Urbanek.

Looking back

10 years ago

Joe H. Tuten announces his retirement from the pastorate of Calvary Church, Jackson, after 27 years. Tuten came to Calvary from First Church, Biloxi. He and his wife, the former Ruth Jarrell, will return to his home state of South Carolina upon his retirement.

20 years ago

Brooks Webster, pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg, is named chairman of a six-person search committee appointed to nominate a successor for Porter Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee in Nashville.

50 years ago

Wilford M. Lee accepts the pastorate of First Church, Leland. He succeeds Chester Quarles, who resigned a few months ago to accept a pastorate in Alabama. Lee was for six years pastor of First Church, Crossett, Ark.

Volunteers needed for EXPO '98

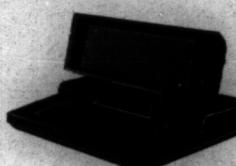
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — About 10 million people from all over the globe are headed to Lisbon, Portugal, this summer, and Southern Baptists have the chance to use drama, puppetry, music, and other creative ministries — as well as one-on-one witnessing — to share the gospel with them during EXPO '98.

The Lisbon World Exposition, EXPO '98, will celebrate the world's maritime heritage, focusing on the theme, "The Oceans, a Heritage for the Future." The event is scheduled for May 22 to Sept. 30.

Nine volunteer teams of about 10 people each are needed to share the gospel with the 10 million visitors expected to attend the international exposition. The teams will work in conjunction with local churches and Southern Baptist missionaries in Portugal. The first team will depart the United States July 11.

Southern Baptist youth and adults interested in volunteering during EXPO '98 should contact Bill Peacock or Anita Mahoney at the Southern Baptist International Mission Board's Volunteers in Missions Department at (800) 888-8657.

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VOLUME 122 NUMBER 4
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$8.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date.

Staking our missions legacy

When we are young, we don't spend a great deal of time pondering our legacy. After all, we think we're going to live forever. As that turning-point age of 40 arrives and the reality of mortal limitations begins to dawn on us in a number of ways, we often begin to wonder just what our legacy will be to those who will come after us.

For Christians, leaving a legacy of wealth and materialism should always be secondary to the things that are really important. Will we leave anything of great spiritual and moral worth to our children and grandchildren? Is their inheritance sufficient to sustain them in the endless struggle to hold high the banner of Christ?

Have we prepared them, as we were once prepared, to claim the mantle of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18)?

Throughout Southern Baptist history, God has consistently raised leaders of towering proportions to prepare the next generation — to leave a legacy for all of us.

One of the greatest of those God-chosen leaders was Annie Armstrong, the first corresponding secretary of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) and one of the early supporters of what was then known as home missions.

Annie was born into a Baltimore family whose material wealth was far above the norm for that era. Even though she was attended by servants, she learned early on the importance her beloved Savior attached to serving others (John 13:5-17).

Her mother was a deeply spiritual woman who founded the Union Protestant Infirmary in Baltimore and several other programs for the needy. Annie quickly recognized her mother's legacy of servanthood and sought to follow in her footsteps.

She began to give freely of her time and formidable organization skills in volunteer work for local orphanages and poorhouses. In doing so, God placed on her heart a burden for the souls of uncounted number in need of Jesus Christ.

It was this background and determination that Annie Armstrong carried into her early Southern Baptist denominational work. It was good that she was prepared.

Women's work in the denomination of her day was — to put it politely — frowned upon by the powerful men who ran the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). History records that the women who founded WMU had to do it on their own in a church of another denomination, so strong was the opposition within the SBC.

Reaction was predictably hostile. The women were accused of abdicating the roles God had prepared for them. They were cast as people who were seeking power and fame at the expense of the denomination. Their mission as they understood it was criticized and ridiculed.

Annie injected herself into this caustic environment as the first head of the new women's organization. She seemed to ignore the naysayers and spoke instead of the "growing ability, and of decreasing impediments to progress, which lead to a fuller understanding and acknowledgment of our position as factors of usefulness in the world's advance and evangelization. We thereby lose not one iota of our womanliness."

She seemed to have a knack for quelling the fractious Southern Baptist entities of her day and convincing them to work together. In that overwhelmingly male-dominated society, when leadership by women was bitterly opposed, it should be noted that Annie became known as "The Great Unifier" within the Southern Baptist Convention.

In 1934, Southern Baptists named their home missions offering in her honor.

Today, we call this work North American missions but it is a change only in name.

Never one to be satisfied with her successes, however, Annie in her last days exhorted WMU members to remember an important fact:

"I AM SO EXCITED,
BECAUSE I KNOW
WHAT'S COMING NEXT!"



These opening doors for women, never so numerous or so wide in the history of the world before, are God's call to us to work as we have never worked before. Rewards await us yonder, work awaits us here.

That is Annie's timeless legacy, passed down to this present generation of faithful Southern Baptists and Mississippi Baptists.

Now is the time to be in prayer about your role in missions right here at home — so many remain unsaved next door to us. Now is also the time to be in prayer about your gift to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions.

As Annie so eloquently pointed out before she went to her eternal reward, there is much left to do.

What will be our legacy?

GUEST OPINION:

Some people need a mother's pinch

By Donald R. Klee, pastor
Emmanuel Church, Walnut Grove

trying to sing the praises of Jesus, I see many men (mostly preachers) chatting, laughing, and generally deserving my mother's pinch.

I understand these meetings are a time to see old friends. It is good to catch up on past events, but when someone is trying to speak it is at least rude, and at worst sacrilegious, to carry on like untaught school children.

How often have we seen a preacher finish a message, a music evangelist stand to sing, and half the preachers get up and walk out?

These same men would be

greatly offended should their congregations behave like this while they were preaching.

I understand some of us must move after sitting a while and, yes, there are legitimate and necessary reasons to leave a meeting, but surely mature adults who are considered leaders should know how to behave in public.

Two scriptural admonitions come to mind.

Paul said "Let all things be done decently and in order." (1 Cor 14:40), and Jesus said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it

unto me" (Matt 25:40). Paul's teaching to the Corinthian church applies to all our public meetings.

It has been said God gave us one mouth and two ears and that we should use them in that proportion.

You know that one cannot listen while talking, and not paying attention causes us to lose knowledge and blessings.

Brothers, we must remember God is not the author of confusion, and confusion is what goes on in a lot of our meetings. Aren't courtesy and self-control supposed to be among the marks of mature believers?

In Matthew 18, Jesus pronounced woe upon those who offend one of his children. I would hate to see any of my brethren have to go swimming with a millstone for ballast.

Please, let me call on my brothers to remember we gather in the name of the Prince of Peace to do his work.

I hope this is received in the spirit with which it is offered — a spirit of love for my brothers and a real concern for what I see.

Mideast Christians plead for prayer during crisis

HAMBURG, Germany (ABP) — Baptist leaders in the Middle East are asking other Christians around the world to pray for peace as the crisis between Iraq, the United Nations, and the United States reaches a critical stage with the proposed U. N. peace agreement.

"We are praying especially for the [Iraqi] people in these days," Shukri Rabadi, president of the Jordan Baptist Convention, told European Baptist Press Service.

Rabadi said some Jordanian Baptist churches include Iraqi families who moved to Jordan after the Gulf War seven years ago and small Iraqi Baptist groups meet in some areas.

Baptists in Israel are struggling, with everyone else, to maintain a regular life while daily news broadcasts the threat of possible missile attacks.

"We need special prayers that we will have peace," said Phillip Sa'ed, chairman of the Association of Baptist Churches in Israel.

Most Baptist church members in Israel, including Sa'ed, are Arabs.

People are buying new gas masks and equipment to seal off a room in their houses from possible chemical or biological gas attack.

Sa'ed is a pastor in Haifa, and it is predicted that Haifa and Tel Aviv would be the targets of an attack.

As a parent, Sa'ed says, it is hard for them to take such precautions and still quiet the fears of their children.

At the same time, Christians are finding such crises "a time of deeper ministry," he said. "We do a lot of visiting, reading the Bible,

preaching the gospel," but they are "praying [leaders involved] will solve the problem peacefully."

Lebanon does not face a direct involvement in the current crisis, but Baptists there do have some specific concerns, said Charles Costa, general secretary of the Lebanese Baptist Convention.

Two Iraqi students attend the Baptist Seminary near Beirut and they and their families back in Iraq are specific concerns for Lebanese Baptists.

Costa asked for prayer for them as they try to communicate with their loved ones and struggle with the crisis situation without being close to their families at such a time.

Costa also asked for prayer and reflection on the total peace process in the area.

He decried the "double stan-

dard" applied in the region by the United States in dealing with the governments of Israel and others.

"On the one hand, Israel bucks at every United Nations resolution with no ramifications and on the other hand, Iraq has to keep to the letter [of the resolutions.]

"That has left a feeling of disappointment even among the Christians [in the region]," he said.

The three Mideast Baptist unions are members of the European Baptist Federation.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

Record

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

FEBRUARY 26, 1998

VOL. 122

No. 4

Church telephone bills reveal new scams

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

Mississippi churches would be wise to keep a sharp eye on their telephone bills, according to a pastor whose church was recently defrauded and the executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission.

Michael Weeks, pastor of Pleasant Hill Church, Olive Branch, said he opened the church's telephone bill a few weeks ago and discovered international calls to Antigua, Montserrat, and Guyana. The church had been victimized by one of the latest long-distance scams to hit churches across the nation.

The Pleasant Hill thieves broke open the network interface box on the outside of the church building that houses the connection between the inside telephones and the outside wiring from the pole.

Once inside the network interface box, they tapped the church's wiring and patched into the wider telephone system without having to break into the church. The church's telephone service provider completed the calls as if the calls were coming from the church — and billed accordingly.

"The outside box is usually in an obscure location on the side of most church buildings. In rural areas, that outside box can be broken into with almost no chance of the thieves being seen."

"The telephone service to the church was not disrupted, so we didn't know until the next bill arrived," Weeks said.

Larry Greer, BellSouth regional director for corporate and external affairs in Jackson, said one other such incident has been reported recently to BellSouth.

"The best protection is to closely check your bill each month. Blocking service or padlocking the outside box are not 'cure-alls.' Always check the monthly bill and immediately contact your local carrier with any problems."

"If the local carrier is not responsive,

then BellSouth should be contacted at the number listed in the BellSouth telephone book," Greer said.

Paul G. Jones II, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC), reported that several churches and individuals have been scammed recently by people who call and identify themselves as telephone company technicians, then ask the recipient of the call to dial "9-0-# (nine-zero-pound sign)" as a test code.

"Legitimate telephone company technicians do not make such a request. When this is done, the scam artist can call anywhere in the world at the unsuspecting church's or individual's expense."

"This scam appears to come from numerous sources including — but not limited to — jails and prisons in local areas and also in other locations," Jones explained.

He said telephone service providers can place "third-party call block" on a telephone line, when requested, to prevent the scam from succeeding.

Jones recommended contacting service providers to discuss third-party call block and any possible fees, although he indicated some service providers do not charge for the blocking.

"CAC suggests that churches consider having third-party call block placed on all telephone lines, unless there is an actual need for third-party calls," he said.

BellSouth's Greer also cautioned Mississippi churches to be aware of yellow pages billings that may be for a national third-party telephone book listing, instead of the local BellSouth telephone book.

Since the phrase, "yellow pages," is not copyrighted, companies other than BellSouth are free to use the phrase and accompanying logo in their billings.

Mississippi churches have reported in the past that they mistakenly paid a third-party yellow pages bill, only to discover

some time later that their yellow pages ad appeared in a third-party national directory and not in the local telephone book where it was intended.

"There are many third-party telephone books companies, and some are unscrupulous. BellSouth yellow pages, which is managed by the Berry Company and identified with the phrase, 'The Real Yellow Pages,' does not mail separate bills — 'The Real Yellow Pages' billing for local BellSouth telephone books is done on the customers' regular BellSouth bill," Greer said.

He suggested that yellow pages customers who have questions and concerns contact the Berry Company directly at (601) 957-9100 or toll-free (800) 877-0429.

Chapman lectures in Jackson



Gary Chapman (left) of Winston-Salem, N.C., noted Southern Baptist lecturer and author on the subject of Christian marriage, signs a copy of his book, "Toward a Growing Marriage," for Becca Pearson, a member of Broadmoor Church, Jackson. Chapman taught his two-day seminar of the same name Feb. 20-21 to an overflow crowd of about 800 people gathered in the sanctuary of Broadmoor Church. His book, "The Five Love Languages," has more than 500,000 copies in print across the United States. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

Sweet describes new technology challenges

By Carl M. White
Associate Editor

First in a series

"How do you tell a postmodern world that Jesus saves so that they can hear and understand?" asked Leonard I. Sweet, who challenged students, faculty, and ministers Feb. 10 at the Mississippi College (MC) Institute for Christian Leadership in Clinton.

Sweet is the dean of the Theology School at Drew University in Madison, Wis., and a leading expert in ministry to the postmodern world.

The author of eleven books, Sweet was on the MC campus as the keynote speaker for the Institute, an MC program to provide academic and practical training for pastors, evangelists, staff persons, and lay leaders.

The Institute is under the direction of Harold T. Bryson, MC professor of Christian Studies and Philosophy.

According to Sweet, postmodernism is the emerging culture of our day.

"God has called us to lead the church in one of the greatest hinges in the history of the Christian tradition, during a new reformation, a postmodern reformation. We are called to be reformation leaders.

"The only comparable time in the history of the Christian church was during the first century when the culture moved from the oral word to

the written word. This was a time of massive change.

"The first century was one of the greatest cultural transitions in history. During this period, God sent his Son, Jesus Christ," Sweet said.

"Could Jesus read? Yes, the gospels tell us he read in the synagogue. Only five percent of the population in Jesus' time could read.

"Could Jesus write? Yes, the gospels tell us he wrote in the sand. Jesus mastered the cutting edge technology of his time.

"As the gospel spread around the world, how did the early Christians circulate their message? The written word, the new technology of the day," Sweet observed.

According to Sweet, a new technological revolution is in the offing, comparable only to the first century. He challenged attendees to do ministry in the postmodern world as the early Christians did in the first century world — "on the cutting edge."

Postmodernism defines itself by what it isn't, he said. "It is a deconstruction of the modern culture. It is saying why the modern culture isn't working anymore."

The tragedy of the modern church, according to Sweet, is that the church has made its

home in modernism.

He contended that the world is in the midst of a spiritual awakening the likes of which hasn't been seen in our lifetime. However, he pointed out that the church is not leading it.

"Why is that? Because we have not understood how to communicate the gospel in ways that this culture can understand," he pointed out.

"There is a 'god rush' — like the gold rush of years ago — that has a lot of fool's gods like fool's gold."

"The biggest fool's god of our era is self and its accompanying idol, materialism."

"God said to Adam and Eve, 'Go there, tend the garden, walk with me, be fruitful and multiply.' God also said, in reference to the tree, 'don't go there.'

"Our ancestors helped invent and prevent their future. They were able to say 'Do go there,' and 'don't go there' to the culture."

The voice of the church is not being heard in the postmodern world, Sweet observed, because the church is not speaking in an understandable way, "Go there, but don't go there."

"This is in part because we are not on the cutting edge of our technology. Jesus was, in

his day. The early church was, in its day. We are not leading this spiritual awakening. We are on the sidelines watching," he stressed.

Sweet said the greatest problem in the transition from modern to postmodernism is "dematerializing theology."

"The biblical witness is that it is the wind that moves the trees. The invisible moves the visible. We are taught, however, that the visible moves the invisible. The trees move the wind."

"We have been so taught materialistic ways that ministry has become program oriented. We think you cannot have a church without a building and programs. We must move to a belief that the Spirit comes first."

"There is no more exciting life than being a disciple of Christ. It is full of risks and adventure. Yet, our churches have become safety zones for risk-free living."

"How did we get in this dilemma?" Sweet asked.

For more information about the Institute, contact Bryson, at MC, Box 4013, Clinton, MS 39058. Telephone: (601) 925-3297.

For information on Sweet and his ministry, visit his website at leonardsweet.com.

Next week: The answer to how the church got into this dilemma, and how to conduct ministry in a postmodern world.



Sweet

Partnership Missions requests

The Venezuelan Baptist Convention and the **Baptist Mission of Venezuela** have requested 16 teams of two persons each to assist with an evangelistic crusade on August 21-31. Each team will consist of a preacher and another person, and will conduct street witnessing during the day as well as evangelistic services at night. Translators will be available.

Pagosa Mountain Heights Church in Colorado has an immediate need for a Mission Service Corps person or couple. This church's pastor will soon retire and needs assistance to sustain the congregation. The church has new facilities and is located in a mountain community with a high population of retirees.

For information on these and other partnership missions opportunities, contact the Partnership Missions Office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

SBC to remain part of Baptist World Alliance

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (ABP) — The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) will not pull out of the Baptist World Alliance (BWA), reported a committee named to investigate charges of liberalism within the worldwide Baptist fellowship.

Based on "good faith discussions" with BWA leaders, the study committee recommended that the SBC continue to fund the organization while calling for "ongoing review" of the relationship.

At the study committee's recommendation, the SBC Executive Committee approved \$425,000 in funding for the BWA in 1996-97, an increase from the \$417,838 budgeted this year. The budget, however, moves the BWA from a percentage allocation of the SBC's unified budget to a flat dollar amount.

Executive Committee chairman James Merritt appointed an ad hoc committee last fall, at the request of the convention's president, Oklahoma pastor Tom Elliff, to "evaluate the relationship" between the SBC and BWA.

Prompting the study were "concerns and questions" raised by Southern Baptists about the BWA, according to a one-page written report of the study committee. Those concerns reportedly included anecdotes of liberal theology being espoused at BWA meetings and a perception that some member groups are not evangelistic.

In announcing the committee's formation last September, SBC president Elliff said "questions have arisen regarding perceived changes in the mission, focus and doctrinal positions of the BWA."

The BWA study committee "met on several occasions" with Baptist World Alliance leaders, Morris Chapman, Executive Committee president and chief executive officer, reported Feb. 17.

The study committee's written report listed three "observations" from discussions with BWA leaders:

■ BWA personnel "affirmed a definite commitment to historic Baptist theology, particularly in reference to the Bible, the person and work of Christ, evangelism, and missions," the committee found.

■ The BWA's constitution lists the organization's objective as, "To act as an agency for the expression of biblical faith and historically distinctive Baptist principles and practices." The BWA "has declared its intention to reflect that objective in its conference planning," the study committee reported.

■ Officers and staff of the BWA "have indicated their desire for current Southern Baptist leaders to become more involved at all levels."

of the organization, the report continued. "Without reservation, the committee affirms Southern Baptists need to relate to Baptists of the world and strongly desire that this may be facilitated in part through participation in the Baptist World Alliance. Good stewardship requires the Southern Baptist Convention continually to evaluate and assess supporting relationships with non-SBC organizations."

Proposed 2-day SBC meeting heads to Salt Lake messengers

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — As early as next year, a two-day Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting could replace the current two-and-a-half-day sessions, if messengers to the June 9-11 SBC annual meeting approve an amendment to the convention's bylaws.

The SBC Executive Committee, during its Feb. 16 meeting in Nashville, Tenn., approved a recommendation for a Tuesday-Wednesday agenda to replace the longstanding Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday annual meeting. The proposal will require a two-thirds vote by messengers in Salt Lake City.

A five-member ad hoc committee was appointed by SBC Executive Committee chairman and Atlanta-area pastor James Merritt last September to study the proposed change. The study committee concluded that a shortened annual meeting "would be beneficial to the Southern Baptist Convention."

The committee had been authorized by the Executive Committee in its February 1997 meeting, acting on a request adopted by the SBC Committee on Order of Business during a December 1996 meeting in Dallas.

Record \$155 million SBC budget proposed

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A record \$155 million Cooperative Program (CP) Allocation Budget for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) for 1998-99 will be recommended to messengers at the June annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

Although a record \$155 million, compared to this year's \$148 million, the proposed budget is nearly a mirror in percentages to this year. The proposal was approved by the SBC's Executive Committee in its Feb. 16-17 meeting in Nashville.

As in last year's budget, the International Mission Board (IMB) would receive 50%, or \$77.5 million, while the North American Mission Board would receive 22.79%, or \$35.3 million.

The two mission boards received \$74 million and \$33.7 million, respectively, in last year's basic budget with the same percentages.

The CP Allocation Budget is the method by which Cooperative Program receipts are distributed each year to 11 SBC entities. The Sunday School Board receives no CP funding, nor does the Woman's Missionary Union, an auxiliary of the SBC.

A proposal to change the process of developing an SBC CP budget came to the first plenary session of the Executive Committee, Feb. 16, but a vote was delayed while further discussions were held.

Later, the proposal, which would require a three-year basic budget with special mission initiatives for any funds received over the basic budget, was debated at the last Executive Committee (EC) session with a final vote postponed until the February 1999 meeting.

Although the six SBC seminaries together will receive the same percentage in the 1998-99 budget — 21.64% — the distribution to each seminary will be slightly different from last year.

The seminaries will receive \$33.5 million, which will be distributed to the six according to a special formula based on average full-time enrollments and other considerations.

Southwestern Seminary will receive \$9.4 million or 6.1% (\$8.9 million or 6.06% in 1997-98); Southern Seminary, \$6.3 million or 4.09% (\$6.4 million or 4.33%); New Orleans Seminary, \$6.1 million or 3.96% (\$5.9 million or 4.01%); Southeastern Seminary, \$5.4 million or 3.48% (\$4.7 million or 3.19%); Golden Gate Seminary, \$3.1 million or 1.99% (\$2.9 million or 1.97%); and Midwestern Seminary will receive \$2.7 million or 1.77% (\$2.7 million or 1.84%).

The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission will receive \$2.3 million or 1.49% in the proposed budget compared to this year of \$2.2 million, also 1.49%.

The Annuity Board will receive about \$1.2 million, .76%, while the SBC Operating Budget will receive about \$5.1 million, 3.32%. Those two facilitating ministries of the SBC received about \$1.1 million and \$4.9 million, respectively, in this year's budget.

As in recent years, the proposed budget also includes a Capital Needs Budget. All receipts over the basic Cooperative Program Allocation Budget are allocated equally to the Capital Needs Budget and Program Advance (using the basic budget distribution model).

The SBC Capital Needs Budget has been scheduled over a 10-year period, 1990-91 through 1999-2000, with capital needs funds distributed annually on a percentage basis. It represents an extension of the Capital Needs Budget first adopted for the period 1984-88.

In the proposed Capital Needs Budget, the North American Mission Board would receive \$1.70 million or 19.31%; Golden Gate Seminary, \$1.02 million or 11.52%; Midwestern Seminary, \$1.08 million or 12.27%; New Orleans Seminary, \$1.23 million or 14.89%; Southeastern Seminary, \$892,314 or 10.08%; Southern Seminary, \$1.33 million or 15.04%; and Southwestern Seminary, \$1.58 million or 17.89%.

Changing the process in how the SBC CP Allocation Budget is created has been discussed informally by the EC for years.

At the February 1997 EC meeting, a spe-

cial Budget Process Study Committee was created to look at the process which basically has the individual SBC entities make annual appeals before the Cooperative Program Subcommittee which then develops a budget for EC and, eventually, SBC approval.

When the study committee revealed its recommendations a year later, at the 1998 Executive Committee meeting, some reservations were expressed by seminary presidents. The recommendations would require a three-year basic budget, with Cooperative Program Subcommittee members evaluating the yearly progress of the SBC entities on goals and objectives.

The study committee also recommended any funds received over the basic budget go into a pool called Special Mission Initiatives (SMI).

How that fund would be distributed would follow a process of suggestions by the Inter-Agency Council (executives of all SBC entities) given to the Cooperative Program Subcommittee in February following the end of the SBC fiscal year, Sept. 30.

However, discussions during the two-day Executive Committee meeting revealed concerns by the seminary presidents in the loss of the capital needs budget after the year 2000 and whether the seminaries would be able to fit into a Special Missions Initiative proposal in future years.

When the Budget Process Study Committee introduced its recommendations at the first session of the EC, Blaine S. Barber, a Petoskey, Mich., pastor, asked for more time for EC members to study the proposal.

When it was brought back to the floor the next day, some EC members expressed both concern about the recommendation and confusion about its content while others defended the proposal as timely, creative and effective.

Eventually, John Robbins, a Grand Junction, Colo., pastor, moved to postpone the vote on the proposal until the February 1999 EC meeting. His motion was approved by a majority vote of the 81-member group but with some opposition.

IMB staffers to get time off for missions work

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — They answer phones, file records, and perform countless other tasks every day to support missions around the world, but employees of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) will have an even greater opportunity to participate personally in missions — thanks to a new program designed to encourage staff to serve as volunteers overseas.

IMB employees participating in approved volunteer missions projects may receive \$200 and one day of paid leave — up to a total of \$1,000 and five days — for each full year of board service after 1992.

IMB employs about 460 full-time and regular part-time workers at its Richmond offices and the Missionary Learning Center in nearby Rockville, Va. Nearly 400 of them have at least one year of continuous employment, the minimum required for receiving volunteer aid. About 270 have worked at the board for at least five years and are eligible to apply for the maximum \$1,000 in aid and five days' leave.

Promise Keepers to lay off entire staff

DENVER (BP) — Promise Keepers has notified its 345 staff members they will be laid off March 31 and that re-staffing will occur after an indefinite period of time when "stable and sufficient" donations are received, the Denver-based Christian men's movement announced Feb. 18.

This year all Promise Keepers' events, including 19 stadium events planned for this summer, will charge no admission fees.

Its "Open the Gates in '98" initiative is designed to remove all financial barriers to participation in its rallies. Promise Keepers' board of directors unanimously supported founder Bill McCartney's call last September for ending the fees.

Promise Keepers said it "expects that donations from local communities and national sponsors will cover the considerable cost of producing the events" planned for the coming year, beginning with a Detroit stadium rally May 15.

More than 2.6 million men have attended Promise Keepers events in stadiums across the nation since 1991.

The admission fees provided 72% of the organization's income, the news release said. The shift from a fee-based income to support from donations alone, and from a paid staff to volunteers, is a "transition of a magnitude unique in the history of nonprofit organizations" and "both a financial and an operational challenge," the organization said in a news release.

Promise Keepers said its 1997 year-end revenues were committed to pay millions of dollars for "Stand in the Gap," the sacred assembly Promise Keepers sponsored on the Mall in Washington. The Oct. 4 event was perhaps the largest religious gathering in American history.

Attendance at Promise Keepers rallies, meanwhile, dropped last year to an average of 36,000 from 50,000 in 1996, The New York Times reported.

McCartney, CEO of the ministry, told Promise Keepers staff

in Denver in the face of the layoffs, "I have a broken heart. But, I don't have a discouraged heart. I have a heart that is filled with hope."

McCartney issued a challenge to church leaders to rally around the ministry's twofold mission of calling men to church and of bringing the churches of America together.

"We have seen how God has used this ministry to change men's lives and lead them back to church," he said. "Now, as the fees to all events are removed, it is time for those churches to assist us in our mission to men."

Promise Keepers' cutbacks began last year in anticipation of the reduced revenue stream. Staff layoffs occurred in July, paring the organization from 400-plus employees.

McCartney pledged last November, "We're all in this together. If one can't get paid, then no one will be paid."

McCartney stressed that Promise Keepers will honor its commitments to all Promise Keepers vendors.

Senior management posts filled on SBC Annuity Board staff

DALLAS (BP) — O.S. Hawkins, president of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, has named one veteran officer and one new employee for two of the top management positions at the board.

He told staff Feb. 18 he has chosen John R. Jones, 44, senior vice president and executive officer for investment services, to become executive vice president-chief operating officer, succeeding W. Gordon Hobgood Jr., who is retiring March 1 after 10 years as chief operating officer.

Hawkins said Rodric E. Cummins, 40, will succeed Jones in investments. Cummins currently is senior vice president and chief investment officer for the Baptist Foundation of Texas.

Another vacancy in administration occurred earlier in February with the resignation of James T. Herod, general counsel and executive officer for marketing, legal and actuarial services, who, coincidentally, went to the Baptist Foundation of Texas as senior vice president and chief administrative officer.

Hawkins said other organizational changes and personnel appointments will be announced in the next few months.

Hobgood and Paul W. Powell, former president of the Annuity Board, advised trustees in November 1996 to begin considering a transition of leadership, observing both men were nearing the age of 65 when both planned to retire.

Early in 1997, Powell offered to step aside to allow election of a new president who could then begin to build his own team of leaders, beginning with a choice of Hobgood's successor.

Trustees formed a search committee that led to the election of Hawkins in September 1997.

NAMES IN THE NEWS



Andrew Chapel Church, Rankin Association, honored **Olivia Fortune** upon her retirement as church treasurer with a reception on Feb. 1. She has been the only treasurer the church has had since it was organized in 1955. Fortune was presented a plaque, crystal bowl, and a monetary gift. Pictured with Fortune is J. T. Laird, pastor.

Jerry B. Gray, 49, of Amarillo, Texas, died Feb. 6. A native of Forrest City, Ark., Gray was a graduate of Southern Baptist College (Williams), Southwest Baptist College, and Southern Seminary. He pastored churches in Arkansas, Kentucky, and Louisiana. He also served as director of missions for the Riverside and Tallahatchie associations in Mississippi. In Amarillo, he was a chaplain at High Plains Baptist Hospital. Survivors include wife Annetta; daughters, Kristetta Miller, Pineville, La., and Rebekah Gray, Plainview, Texas; and son, Gary Gray, Amarillo, Texas;



Gray



Steele Church, Forest, recently ordained brothers as deacons. Pictured (from left) are Keith Warren; John Boggan, pastor; and Kenneth Warren.

Homecomings

Holly Springs, Lincoln County: March 15; services, 11 a.m.; covered dish luncheon served; business meeting, 1 p.m.; special music, 1:15 p.m., featuring Obadiah; Harold McClendon, speaker; Michael Branson, music.

Clarke Venable Memorial Church, Decatur, will have two Sunday morning worship services beginning on March 1. The schedule is worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; and worship, 11 a.m. David Grumbach is pastor.

Southern Hills Church, Jackson, recently dedicated a remodeled choir room and music study. A Kawai console piano was donated to the church. Curtis Alston is minister of music. Ralph Buckley is pastor.

Highland Colony Church, Ridgeland, will host the annual meeting of the Agricultural Missions Foundation (AMF) on Feb. 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. James H. Ziler (pictured), agricultural evangelist, will be one of the speakers on program. Ziler has been reaching Haitians for Christ since 1933. He has used "Wells of Salvation" Isaiah 12:3 as means of showing love and concern and to gain the confidence of those he wanted to reach. Over 300,000 receive water from more than 400 wells he helped drill. Also, on program will be Harold and Joyce Watson. Harold Watson has developed a practical Experiment station in the Philippines.



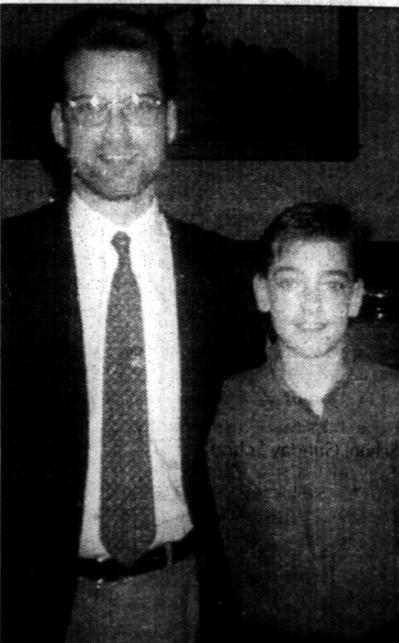
Ziler

has kept the myriad of financial details of the Rural Life Center straight. "They probably have reached more people for Christ than any other missionary couple in Asia," said Gene A. Triggs, chairman, AMF.

Goodwater Church, Magee, will dedicate its new sanctuary and celebrate 110th anniversary at 2 p.m., April 19, followed by a reception.

Bayou View Church, Gulfport, will start two discipleship training classes for adults on March 1 at 5 p.m. "Experiencing God" will be a 13-week course. "Learning to Share my Faith" is a 6-week course. During the month of March, the church will also conduct "Light your World" Sunday School attendance campaign. The church held a special study on the missions ministries work along the Mississippi River during the evening worship service on Feb. 22.

The Miracles of the Baddour Center will lead in worship through inspirational music and testimony at Eastside Church, Rankin Association, March 1 at 11 a.m. For information, call 939-2433.



Bryan Smith was baptized on Dec. 21 at Mt. Vernon Church, Eupora. He is the son of Billy and Pam Salley of Eupora. Pictured with Smith is Tony Faulk, pastor.

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MS Positions Available

PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC for Adult and Youth Choirs. Send resumes to Ronnie Clark, Ruleville Baptist Church, PO Box 187, Ruleville, MS 38771.

PART-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR/ SR. ADULT MINISTER: Send resume to Search Committee, First Baptist Church, PO Box 545, Aberdeen, MS 39730.

ADMINISTRATOR: Lamar Christian School, which is owned and operated by the Lamar County Baptist Association, Purvis, MS. To request an application form or for further information, contact Glenn Davis, PO Box 368, Sumrall, MS 39482; home phone: (601) 758-4589 work phone: (601) 758-4738.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Gunter Road Baptist Church. If you are interested in this bi-vocational or student position, please send your resume to: Gunter Road Baptist Church, 1220 Gunter Rd., Florence, MS 39073, or call (601) 932-4134.

PIANIST needed for Baptist church in Florence, MS. For information call Jimmy McCaleb at (601) 932-4134.



White

Clear Branch Church, Rankin Association, celebrated its 100th anniversary on Oct. 19, 1997. Myrtle White Butler (inset) was present the first time church services were held. Butler celebrated her 103rd birthday on Dec. 11, 1997. Celebrating with her is the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Sunday School class at Clear Branch Church. Pictured (from left, front row) are Naomi McCaffery, teacher; Bryce Boykin; (back row) Cory Squire, Dustin Kelly, Butler, Stacy Roberts, and Christy Nixon.

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 26, 1998

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication**.

Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

"Prayer is the surest remedy against the devil and besetting sins. That sin will never stand firm which is heartily prayed against. That devil will never long keep dominion over us which we beseech the Lord to cast forth. But then we must spread out all our case before our heavenly Physician, if he is to give us daily relief."

- A Call to Prayer by J.C. Ryle

Week of Prayer for Home Missions and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (WMU emphasis). Pray that Baptists will make a great effort to provide ministries, strengthen existing churches and to start new ones along the Mississippi River which snakes its way through Ill., Mo., Ky., Ark., Tenn., Miss. and La.

Pray for the 82 Mississippi Baptist Convention Board retirees and their spouses. Pray for their health and ministries during the years of retirement. At least 92% of the Native American population has not been reached with the gospel of Christ. Pray for the Lord to raise up laborers to work among Native American people.

Home Missions Day in Sunday School (Sunday School Emphasis). Praise God for the 409,366 Bibles and new Testaments distributed in Canada by the Gideons during 1996-97.

8

For Baptist Doctrine Study Preview; William Carey College; sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department. Give thanks to God for the 70 people who were baptized by FBC of Santa Cruz, Bolivia, in the last two months.

9

Baptist representative Bob Worley, who serves as a church planter in Sarajevo, Bosnia, says that the need for the gospel there is overwhelming. He requests us to pray that God will give them wisdom to know where to focus their efforts and that the Holy Spirit will move in a powerful way.

For Baptist Doctrine Study Preview; Mississippi College; sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department. Pray that the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary in Mexico City can find the additional professors they need.

10

Pray for Walvis Bay Baptist Church and Nortoub Baptist Church in Namibia as they seek godly pastors to lead their congregations. Pray that the Lord will raise up evangelistic ministries to reach tens of thousands of junior high and high school students in Taipei, Taiwan.

Arrests and fines of Christian leaders continue unabated in Vietnam, as does the confiscation of Bibles and other material. Not only small house churches but also large movements are affected such as the church association of Pastor Ai which has 8,000 members.

11

Pray that God will call more missionaries to Cebu City, Philippines, to share the gospel in that strategic and spiritually needy place.

For Baptist Doctrine Study Preview; Blue Mountain College; sponsored by the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department. Give thanks for the safe arrival of missionaries Kris and Shelly Riggs, who will work with the Fulani people in Niger.

12

For Director of Missions Program Interpretation; Camp Garaywa; sponsored by MEAA. Pray for Woman's Missionary Union as it sponsors and promotes mission activities and events that appeal to all ages and interests.

27

For Youth Bible Study Forum, FBC, Gulfport; sponsored by the Sunday School Department. For State Youth Four-part Music Festival, Alta Woods BC, Jackson; sponsored by the Church Music Department.

28

Russell and Melinda Kyzar, Baptist representatives in Russia who are from Mississippi, write that "...the church-planting group in the Lyublino area of Moscow was denied permission to continue showing the 'Jesus' film after two Sundays in January. Pray for their leader that God would lead him to the right person who will open up a meeting place to begin church services.

7

Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Conference

April 13-14, 1998
Camp Garaywa
Clinton, Miss.



Bee on the watch for a registration brochure that is going to be sent out the first week in March.

Smaller Church Sunday School and Discipleship Training Leadership Training Conferences 7-9 p.m.

March 23

FBC, Lyman, and
Calvary Baptist Church, Greenville

This year the Sunday School Department and the Discipleship Training and Family Ministry Department have teamed up to provide training especially for the unique needs of the smaller church. We will be discovering together how the Sunday School and Discipleship ministries of your church work together to accomplish the Great Commission. We will also provide training from 7 to 9 p.m. in how to teach your age group and how to handle those unique needs of the smaller church. No registration is required. Conferences will be provided in each of the following groups:

Locations

March 24

Poplar Springs Baptist Church, Newton, and
Oakhurst Baptist Church, Clarksdale

► Preschool Leaders (SS/DT)

► Children's Leaders (SS/DT)

► Youth Leaders (SS/DT)

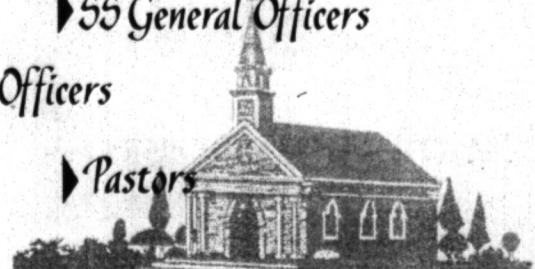
► Adult SS Leaders

► Adult DT Leaders

► SS General Officers

► DT General Officers

► Pastors



The following is a listing of contributions made to the Lord's work which were processed through the Business Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1, 1997 through December 31, 1997. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the Business Office at 968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

| | COOP. PROGRAM | OTHER | TOTAL | | COOP. PROGRAM | OTHER | TOTAL | | COOP. PROGRAM | OTHER | TOTAL |
|--------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------|------------------|------------|----------|
| WEST DREW YALE STREET | 1781.28 | 1818.69 | 3599.97 | ANTIOCH BASSFIELD | 1900.80 | 2050.00 | 3950.80 | FBC BYRAM | 24765.63 | 19895.39 | 44661.02 |
| TOTAL | 6410.80 | 4266.77 | 10677.57 | BETHANY CALHOUN | 8000.04 | 3913.27 | 11913.31 | FBC CANTON | 45956.56 | 38992.94 | 84949.50 |
| CALHOUN *ASSOCIATION | 1443.68 | 1828.29 | 3271.97 | 12486.77 | 6686.42 | 21169.42 | FBC CLINTON | 223645.86 | 119646.71 | 343292.57 | |
| ANTIOCH | 4569.94 | 4826.94 | 9396.88 | 1439.56 | 2557.65 | 6115.50 | FBC FLORA | 34960.59 | 11511.84 | 46472.43 | |
| BANNER | 100.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 3643.99 | 2772.00 | 5185.68 | FBC JACKSON | 656862.95 | 379603.48 | 1036466.43 | |
| BENTLEY | 10865.25 | 16578.91 | 27444.16 | 4046.54 | 3958.93 | 7005.47 | FBC RIDGELELAND | 39177.00 | 10380.13 | 49557.13 | |
| BETHANY | 21882.46 | 23453.16 | 45335.62 | 31831.50 | 17807.86 | 49639.36 | FBC TERRY | 24769.02 | 16132.19 | 40901.21 | |
| BIG CREEK | 2644.05 | 5700.55 | 8344.60 | 7883.31 | 4630.00 | 12513.31 | FOREST HILL | 9014.38 | 2544.60 | 11558.98 | |
| BRADFORD CHAPEL | 2121.87 | 0.00 | 1721.87 | 2360.62 | 3458.51 | 5819.13 | FRANKLIN | 5779.63 | 2072.63 | 7852.26 | |
| CALVARY | 2508.73 | 2991.33 | 5500.06 | 2808.00 | 2610.00 | 3410.00 | GOOD HOPE | 437.00 | 437.00 | 874.00 | |
| COLLEGE HILL | 3700.80 | 6607.63 | 10308.43 | 1712.53 | 1894.94 | 3607.47 | GRACEWAY | 384.79 | 228.20 | 612.99 | |
| CONCORD | 34661.52 | 11283.22 | 45944.74 | 5526.25 | 5710.72 | 13036.97 | GREEN PASTURES | 300.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 | |
| DERMA | 295.00 | 235.00 | 530.00 | 3502.24 | 2244.65 | 5746.89 | GRIFFITH MEMORIAL | 42263.47 | 22722.15 | 64985.62 | |
| DRIVERS FLAT | 1380.00 | 123.00 | 1503.00 | 2185.00 | 3337.00 | 5522.00 | HIGHLAND | 2014.19 | 5308.60 | 25322.79 | |
| DUNCAN HILL | 100.00 | 300.00 | 400.00 | 8056.45 | 7302.39 | 15358.84 | HIGHLAND COLONY | 19785.47 | 10970.14 | 30755.61 | |
| ELLARD | 2134.53 | 1133.71 | 3268.24 | 2077.66 | 4107.45 | 6185.11 | HILLCREST | 36719.74 | 41160.87 | 77880.61 | |
| FBC BRUCE | 63553.98 | 30035.51 | 93589.49 | 67467.43 | 46699.92 | 114167.35 | LAKESHORE | 12902.12 | 6576.81 | 19478.93 | |
| FBC CALHOUN CITY | 57924.00 | 43122.20 | 101046.20 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | LEARNED | 1402.69 | 1471.32 | 2874.01 | |
| FBC VARDAMAN | 27832.16 | 11001.86 | 38834.02 | 8083.00 | 14780.60 | 22863.60 | LONE PINE | 200.00 | 100.00 | 300.00 | |
| LANTRIP | 100.00 | 150.00 | 150.00 | 11083.99 | 60784.5 | 17162.44 | LULA | 130.00 | 565.00 | 695.00 | |
| LOYD | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 297.00 | 397.00 | MCDOWELL ROAD | 28506.50 | 15555.45 | 44061.95 | |
| MACEDONIA | 2292.77 | 2413.89 | 4706.66 | 12656.44 | 7704.98 | 20361.42 | MIDWAY | 20902.90 | 5246.00 | 26148.92 | |
| MIDWAY | 1765.13 | 1463.74 | 3228.87 | 12656.44 | 10276.50 | 16059.25 | MORRISON HEIGHTS | 23462.50 | 99745.83 | 333972.73 | |
| MT COMFORT | 3318.45 | 2348.99 | 5667.44 | 67467.43 | 46699.92 | 114167.35 | NEW HAVEN | 1242.34 | 363.53 | 10655.57 | |
| MT MORIAH | 12182.25 | 6592.48 | 18744.73 | 12112.41 | 5266.02 | 21121.41 | NORTHMINSTER | 1346.30 | 52357.00 | 53703.30 | |
| NEW HOPE | 1229.85 | 1140.87 | 2370.72 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | NORTHSIDE | 248.92 | 1836.82 | 20813.75 | |
| NEW LIBERTY | 2625.99 | 4156.16 | 6782.15 | 2143.53 | 5097.60 | 10097.14 | OAK FOREST | 54851.09 | 33144.20 | 88195.26 | |
| NEW PROVIDENCE | 2060.42 | 5869.13 | 7929.55 | 3433.91 | 1270.60 | 4704.51 | OLD RICE ROAD | 4243.02 | 321.06 | 7641.78 | |
| OLD GROVE | 548.00 | 725.00 | 1673.00 | 12112.41 | 5097.60 | 10097.14 | PALESTINE | 3854.20 | 1093.00 | 6455.78 | |
| OLDTOWN | 562.89 | 6806.22 | 12259.11 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | PARKHILL | 2510.42 | 1986.15 | 4496.57 | |
| PARKER | 1942.80 | 368.75 | 2332.35 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | PARKWAY | 4900.00 | 66324.07 | 115332.07 | |
| PILGRIMS REST | 120.00 | 40.00 | 160.00 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | POCAHONTAS | 10115.42 | 3210.00 | 13288.07 | |
| PITTSBORO | 6732.28 | 449.43 | 1111.71 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | RAYMOND | 42350.00 | 25853.22 | 67972.22 | |
| PLEASANT GROVE | 76.86 | 32.94 | 109.80 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | RAYMOND ROAD | 34089.38 | 25043.11 | 59132.49 | |
| PLEASANT HILL | 6918.28 | 7216.48 | 14134.76 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | RIDGECREST | 123038.37 | 35791.60 | 158826.92 | |
| POPLAR SPRINGS | 3477.48 | 4106.91 | 7584.00 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | RIVERCREST FELLOWSHIP | 180.00 | 90.00 | 270.00 | |
| ROCKY BRANCH | 1000.89 | 2241.22 | 3242.11 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | SALEM | 9000.00 | 8283.90 | 17823.90 | |
| ROCKY MOUNT | 1533.84 | 649.64 | 2183.48 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | SIMMONS MEMORIAL | 1231.20 | 885.59 | 2116.79 | |
| SABOUGLA | 8784.67 | 5856.46 | 14641.13 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | SOUTHERN HILLS | 600.00 | 329.96 | 929.96 | |
| SAREPTA | 862.44 | 1645.37 | 2507.81 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | TEMPLE | 1550.69 | 2054.24 | 3604.32 | |
| SECOND CALHOUN | 1147.82 | 3295.82 | 4388.00 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | TERRY ROAD | 1100.00 | 3575.00 | 4675.00 | |
| SHILOH | 2337.25 | 1903.02 | 21375.27 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | TRACE RIDGE | 22423.00 | 12184.00 | 34607.00 | |
| SPRING HILL | 2732.27 | 1679.69 | 4411.96 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | TWIN LAKES | 13695.40 | 3958.29 | 17653.69 | |
| TURKEY CREEK | 72.00 | 362.01 | 434.01 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | UTICA | 20084.44 | 8881.40 | 28965.84 | |
| WESTSIDE | 3419.50 | 2762.58 | 6182.08 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | VAN WINKLE | 5280.21 | 3836.35 | 91163.56 | |
| TOTAL | 311431.02 | 246025.73 | 557456.75 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | WESTVIEW | 3509.00 | 4885.00 | 8394.00 | |
| CARROLL | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | WILDWOOD | 23814.85 | 16513.06 | 40327.91 | |
| *ASSOCIATION | 0.00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | WOODLAND HILLS | 64265.00 | 3891.69 | 103177.69 | |
| BLACK HAWK | 1038.30 | 1546.80 | 2585.10 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | WOODMILL HEIGHTS | 48308.16 | 19242.73 | 67550.89 | |
| CALVARY | 1706.97 | 2728.57 | 4435.54 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | WYNNDALE | 36321.30 | 18572.53 | 54892.83 | |
| CARROLLTON | 14546.00 | 11373.45 | 23000.03 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | TOTAL | 3216608.83 | 1781898.42 | 4998507.25 | |
| CHICKASAW | 100.00 | 1625.00 | 2625.00 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | HOLMES | 96019.07 | 42573.75 | 138592.82 | |
| AMITY | 1158.69 | 1109.68 | 2268.37 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | ANTIOCH | 2593.35 | 1327.61 | 3920.96 | |
| ARBOR GROVE | 3791.71 | 1739.17 | 5530.88 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | 21362.16 | BEULAH | 1998.32 | 568.21 | 2566.53 | |
| BETHEL | 5691.41 | 2795.72 | 8487.13 | 12372.41 | 8989.75 | | | | | | |

| COOP. PROGRAM | OTHER | TOTAL | COOP. PROGRAM | OTHER | TOTAL | COOP. PROGRAM | OTHER | TOTAL | COOP. PROGRAM | OTHER | TOTAL |
|------------------|-----------|----------|---------------|----------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|
| FAIRFIELD | 14756.19 | 9169.07 | 23925.26 | LEAKE | .00 | 100.00 | 100.00 | ANTIOCH | 7064.56 | 6037.86 | 13102.42 |
| FAITH | 1126.60 | 759.09 | 1885.69 | *ASSOCIATION | .00 | 1250.00 | 1850.00 | ARTESIA | 6638.23 | 2417.57 | 9055.79 |
| FBC ELLISVILLE | 61907.29 | 26873.17 | 88782.46 | BETHEL | 704.81 | 1946.98 | 2651.79 | BETHESDA | 7569.00 | 2712.57 | 10281.00 |
| FBC LAUREL | 135380.96 | 19506.63 | 154887.62 | CEDAR GROVE | .00 | 12897.16 | 19153.16 | BORDER SPRINGS | 11367.47 | 4943.70 | 16311.95 |
| FBC O'VETT | 3720.20 | 2815.57 | 6534.17 | CORINTH | 6256.00 | 10861.46 | 16081.46 | BROADMOOR | 550.00 | 1239.00 | 1789.00 |
| FBC SHARON | 28898.65 | 1194.91 | 40493.56 | EMMANUEL | 2241.05 | 2797.49 | 5038.54 | CALVARY | 124565.56 | 23076.72 | 147642.28 |
| FELLOWSHIP | 8032.02 | 1001.00 | 9033.40 | FBC CARTHAGE | 25251.97 | 10223.75 | 10223.75 | CANAAN | 11489.79 | 4147.90 | 15637.69 |
| FREEDOM | 15632.79 | 7400.00 | 20339.79 | FREENY | 3964.37 | 6259.38 | 10223.75 | CEDAR BLUFF | 3131.11 | 319.00 | 3450.11 |
| FRIDSHIP | 2846.95 | 932.00 | 3787.95 | GOOD HOPE | 2615.95 | 1655.00 | 4270.95 | CENTER GROVE | 3049.00 | 2259.00 | 5308.00 |
| GLADE | 27911.49 | 11538.51 | 39450.00 | LENA | 1738.93 | 6870.70 | 14189.10 | COMMUNITY | 4608.37 | 4178.39 | 8786.76 |
| GRACE | 3018.85 | 3867.02 | 6885.87 | MADDEN | 10673.76 | 21058.61 | 21232.37 | DOUBBLE SPRINGS | 10547.74 | 2294.94 | 12842.68 |
| HARMONY | 10050.20 | 6396.07 | 16462.27 | MCDONALD | 858.05 | 141.65 | 999.70 | EAST END | 69425.39 | 27602.59 | 97027.98 |
| HEBON | 14119.56 | 6727.60 | 20847.16 | MIDWAY | 409.35 | 889.35 | 1298.70 | EASTVIEW | 2449.00 | 842.00 | 3291.00 |
| HIGHLAND | 66704.83 | 47131.53 | 113826.36 | MT CARMEL | 480.00 | 1617.78 | 2097.78 | EMMANUEL | 300.00 | .00 | 300.00 |
| HILLCREST | 462.78 | 120.00 | 582.78 | MT ZION | 4694.78 | 3424.31 | 8119.00 | ENON | 982.00 | 213.00 | 1195.00 |
| HOUSTON ROAD | 6814.09 | 6933.31 | 13747.48 | NEW HOPE | 1441.10 | 2501.10 | 3942.20 | FAIRVIEW | 164789.53 | 45018.00 | 209807.53 |
| INDIAN SPRINGS | 34394.42 | 15706.57 | 50100.99 | NEW PROSPECT | 57.00 | 114.00 | 171.00 | FAITH | 45994.84 | 18304.11 | 64298.95 |
| LAWN HAVEN | 3832.13 | 1676.69 | 5508.82 | NEW PROVIDENCE | 847.00 | 140.00 | 987.00 | FBC COLUMBUS | 224248.05 | 204867.24 | 429115.29 |
| LOWERY CREEK | 9321.60 | 7177.46 | 16499.06 | NEW ZION | 535.08 | 1075.00 | 1610.08 | FBC MABEN | 15432.11 | 5522.00 | 20954.11 |
| MAGNOLIA | 16126.78 | 8561.30 | 24688.08 | PEASANT HILL | 3263.05 | 5506.04 | 8769.09 | FBC STARKVILLE | 83570.09 | 74923.67 | 158493.76 |
| MOSILLE MEMORIAL | 16080.57 | 10566.44 | 26647.01 | REMUS | 100.00 | 1398.70 | 1498.70 | FBC WEST POINT | 55690.01 | 30155.35 | 85845.36 |
| MYRICK | 6266.77 | 1806.20 | 8072.97 | ROCKY POINT | 4610.70 | 1030.00 | 1430.00 | FELLOWSHIP | 10341.19 | 4771.25 | 15112.44 |
| NEW HOPE | 3508.17 | 1355.28 | 4863.45 | SALEM | 246.00 | 1225.00 | 1361.31 | FRIDSHIP | 10799.70 | 4678.54 | 15478.24 |
| OAKLAND GROVE | 12402.81 | 1769.60 | 14172.41 | SPRINGFIELD | 1146.51 | 232.22 | 3358.73 | HEBON | 2400.00 | 1970.00 | 4370.00 |
| PARK HAVEN | 10.00 | 241.00 | 251.00 | STANDING PINE | 2032.37 | 2674.56 | 4709.83 | HOPE | 2077.00 | 950.00 | 3027.00 |
| PECAN GROVE | 3656.26 | 3540.00 | 7194.35 | SUNRISE | 5098.00 | 7726.00 | 12824.00 | IMMANUEL | 27329.39 | 7076.46 | 34405.85 |
| PLAINWAY | 17977.63 | 8881.27 | 26858.90 | THOMASTOWN | 7166.81 | 2479.00 | 9666.31 | KOLOA SPRINGS | 12428.50 | 6410.00 | 18842.59 |
| PEASANT HOME | 15860.34 | 6032.10 | 21892.44 | TRINITY | 9707.53 | 8105.25 | 1788.78 | LONGVIEW | 1835.48 | 854.50 | 2689.98 |
| SEALM HEIGHTS | 22640.79 | 1014.00 | 23654.79 | TUSCOLA | 1914.71 | 2178.00 | 4092.71 | MEET | 1674.70 | 1744.70 | 3419.40 |
| SAND HILL | 13005.34 | 2452.67 | 15458.01 | WALNUT GROVE | 7822.13 | 11672.29 | 19494.42 | MEADOWVIEW | 35112.73 | 11934.99 | 47047.72 |
| SANDERSVILLE | 24650.31 | 4846.57 | 29455.88 | WEST CARTHAGE | 1789.00 | 2206.94 | 3899.94 | MONTPELIER | 3038.63 | 2557.17 | 5580.80 |
| SECOND AVENUE | 11750.00 | 13910.97 | 25660.97 | WIGGINS | 1328.72 | 2206.72 | 3535.44 | MORGAN CHAPEL | 17831.01 | 16831.48 | 34818.48 |
| SHELTON | 6456.81 | 1315.15 | 7771.96 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | MT VERNON | 45809.00 | 19069.32 | 64887.84 |
| SUMMERLAND | 20809.96 | 5543.28 | 26353.24 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | MT ZION | 42007.96 | 27196.80 | 69204.76 |
| TRINITY | 26265.72 | 15524.49 | 41790.21 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | NEW HOPE | 5022.94 | 6731.62 | 12814.61 |
| TUCKERS CROSSING | 16433.56 | 9144.42 | 25577.98 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | NEW SALEM | 11869.39 | 2626.06 | 2495.98 |
| UNITY | 7500.00 | 4601.60 | 12101.60 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | PHBFA | 6958.39 | 1201.16 | 1201.16 |
| WEST ELLISVILLE | 32420.09 | 12949.46 | 45369.55 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | PINE BLUFF | 1217.21 | 457.00 | 1574.75 |
| WEST LAUREL | 50473.13 | 2410.43 | 47458.53 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | PINE BLUFF | 46633.00 | 11068.15 | 57701.15 |
| WILDWOOD | 12968.04 | 9632.92 | 22600.96 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | PINE BLUFF | 191.49 | 191.49 | 191.49 |
| TOTAL | 854468.37 | 38893.52 | 124307.89 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | PINE BLUFF | 2448.07 | 1059.16 | 3507.23 |
| KEMPER | | | | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | PINE BLUFF | 14665.52 | 12482.96 | 28950.48 |
| BAY SPRINGS | 2190.91 | 730.00 | 2920.91 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | MARION | 824.70 | 824.70 | 824.70 |
| BLACKWATER | 2758.38 | 5012.40 | 7770.78 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | ANTIOCH | 13617.28 | 53215.61 | 65814.86 |
| BLUFF SPRINGS | 1265.00 | 550.00 | 1815.00 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | BUNKER HILL | 39598.33 | 13617.28 | 53215.61 |
| CENTER RIDGE | 8750.00 | 6121.00 | 14871.00 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | CALVARY | 9620.42 | 1053.83 | 10574.25 |
| CORINTH | 1099.90 | 437.00 | 1536.90 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | CHUNKY | 11957.21 | 3567.74 | 15524.95 |
| DEKALB | 10360.76 | 7057.80 | 17418.56 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | CLARKE VENABLE | 863.36 | 7110.00 | 7973.36 |
| LIBERTY | 3900.00 | 2627.00 | 6527.00 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | CONEHATT | 14665.52 | 12482.96 | 20686.65 |
| SALEM | 1000.00 | 1650.00 | 2650.00 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | CROSS ROADS | 13556.46 | 9160.16 | 22516.62 |
| SCOOBA | 12560.98 | 12699.00 | 25259.98 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | DUFFEE | 2456.75 | 700.00 | 3190.95 |
| UNION | 2652.03 | 1529.54 | 4181.57 | TOTAL | 117767.94 | 123614.61 | 241382.53 | EMMANUEL | 868.93 | 2225.71 | 7094.64 |
| UNION HILL | 238.00 | 201.00 | 439.00 | TOTAL | 117767 | | | | | | |

| | COOP. PROGRAM | OTHER | TOTAL | | COOP. PROGRAM | OTHER | TOTAL | | COOP. PROGRAM | OTHER | TOTAL | | COOP. PROGRAM | OTHER | TOTAL |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| SOUTHCREST | 1530.10 | 2005.99 | 3536.09 | TROY | 4444.55 | 4850.17 | 9294.72 | POPLAR SPRINGS | 10657.92 | 11052.37 | 21710.29 | GLENDALE | 7594.76 | 6533.47 | 14128.23 |
| STRAYHORN | 7146.88 | 4818.86 | 11965.74 | TURNPIKE | 2525.69 | 200.00 | 2725.69 | SHIVERS | 1624.73 | 3856.73 | 5481.46 | GREENFIELD | 2861.80 | 1546.36 | 4428.16 |
| TRINITY-HERNANDO | 1017.57 | 288.00 | 1305.57 | VALLEY GROVE | 4051.92 | 3185.54 | 7237.46 | SILOAM | 11352.00 | 8555.47 | 19907.47 | HOLLANDALE | 2547.96 | 18009.75 | 43657.71 |
| TRINITY-SOUTHAVEN | 109722.89 | 66034.31 | 175757.20 | WEST HEIGHTS | 128278.35 | 31565.40 | 159843.75 | STONEWALL | 724.96 | 653.72 | 1378.68 | LAKEVIEW | 2543.91 | 1226.85 | 3761.76 |
| TWIN LAKES | 6450.50 | 2315.31 | 8765.81 | WOODLAND | 1914.46 | 5833.78 | 7748.24 | STRONG RIVER | 401.57 | 813.00 | 1214.57 | PARKVIEW/CREMMLIE | 25374.30 | 12558.87 | 37933.17 |
| TYRO | 1831.00 | 578.00 | 2409.00 | ZION | 11542.18 | 5954.99 | 17497.17 | WEATHERSBY | 2260.22 | 2666.60 | 4926.82 | PARKVIEW/LELAND | 1498.00 | 4018.00 | 5516.00 |
| WILDWOOD | 212.89 | 160.00 | 372.89 | TOTAL | 467878.99 | 247879.04 | 715758.03 | TOTAL | 314897.89 | 256293.34 | 571191.23 | RIVERPORT | 600.00 | 2282.80 | 2882.80 |
| WYATTE | 5432.73 | 12955.91 | 18388.64 | | | | | | | | | SECOND GREENVILLE | 10509.60 | 7963.86 | 18473.46 |
| TOTAL | 1065661.59 | 457208.53 | 1522870.12 | | | | | | | | | SOCHTSIDE | 3942.24 | 3566.23 | 7508.47 |
| NOXBEE | | | | PRENTISS | | | | SMITH | | | | VICTORY TEMPLE | 1699.39 | 1960.80 | 3660.19 |
| BROOKSVILLE | 13301.79 | 9266.25 | 22568.04 | CALVARY | 3925.37 | 1802.00 | 5727.37 | ACTS | 630.00 | 630.00 | 1260.00 | GLENDALE | 7594.76 | 6533.47 | 14128.23 |
| CALVARY MACON | 900.00 | 132.91 | 1032.91 | CANDLERS CHAPEL | 1737.57 | 3152.52 | 4890.09 | BEAVER DAM | 390.00 | 390.00 | 1062.85 | GREENFIELD | 2861.80 | 1546.36 | 4428.16 |
| CONCORD | 700.00 | 1550.00 | 2250.00 | CASEY CREEK | 1851.11 | 690.31 | 2541.42 | BETHER | 1062.85 | 1062.85 | 2500.00 | HOLLANDALE | 2547.96 | 18009.75 | 43657.71 |
| ELON | 4114.02 | 1453.00 | 5567.02 | CRESTWOOD | 2280.24 | 2429.00 | 4709.24 | BURNS | 757.12 | 250.00 | 1007.12 | LAKEVIEW | 2543.91 | 1226.85 | 3761.76 |
| FBC MACON | 21912.58 | 20475.00 | 42387.58 | EAST BOONEVILLE | 26611.29 | 19947.14 | 46385.43 | CENTER HILL | 1640.00 | 1640.00 | 380.05 | PARKVIEW/CREMMLIE | 25374.30 | 12558.87 | 37933.17 |
| MASHULAVILLE | 4515.30 | 3032.78 | 7548.08 | EAST MARIETTA | 1977.53 | 1977.53 | 1977.53 | CLEAR SPRINGS | 1176.73 | 2079.38 | 3196.11 | PARKVIEW/LELAND | 1498.00 | 4018.00 | 5516.00 |
| RUHAMA | 0.00 | 250.00 | 250.00 | EAST PRENTISS | 619.11 | 4327.25 | 10646.66 | CONCORD | 2224.75 | 1485.00 | 3209.75 | RIVERPORT | 600.00 | 2282.80 | 2882.80 |
| SHUOQUALAK | 3000.00 | 455.00 | 3455.00 | FABRIEW | 2587.35 | 4312.14 | 6899.49 | CORINTH | 1295.00 | 1295.00 | 1295.00 | SECOND GREENVILLE | 10509.60 | 4018.00 | 5516.00 |
| VERNON | 545.76 | 1300.00 | 1843.76 | FBC BOONEVILLE | 1953.03 | 46183.84 | 103121.90 | FBC MIZE | 6252.11 | 7501.07 | 13753.18 | SOCHTSIDE | 3942.24 | 3566.23 | 7508.47 |
| WEST SIDE | 1589.79 | 492.42 | 2082.21 | FOREST HILL | 1543.74 | 400.00 | 1943.74 | FBC POLKVILLE | 7285.25 | 1636.35 | 11021.60 | VICTORY TEMPLE | 1699.39 | 1960.80 | 3660.19 |
| TOTAL | 50579.24 | 42522.32 | 93108.60 | GASTON | 20672.67 | 22450.83 | 43123.50 | FBC RALEIGH | 37429.16 | 6671.51 | 64100.67 | TOTAL | 287255.39 | 231050.98 | 518306.37 |
| PANOLA | | | | HILL'S CHAPEL | 394.55 | 197.28 | 591.83 | FBC TAYLORSVILLE | 33132.94 | 2807.54 | 61205.48 | GLENDALE | 7594.76 | 6533.47 | 14128.23 |
| CALVARY | 19632.18 | 8003.41 | 27635.59 | INGRAM | 5516.10 | 5448.13 | 10964.23 | GOODWATER | 818.00 | 1064.00 | 1882.00 | GREENFIELD | 2861.80 | 1546.36 | 4428.16 |
| COMO | 7486.09 | 2070.32 | 9556.41 | MT OLIVE | 20736.75 | 26303.66 | 47040.41 | HARMONY | 1493.07 | 332.54 | 1825.61 | HOLLANDALE | 2547.96 | 18009.75 | 43657.71 |
| COURTLAND | 3752.18 | 4125.00 | 7877.18 | MT ZION COMMUNITY | 300.00 | 0.00 | 300.00 | HIGH HILL | 75.00 | 0.00 | 75.00 | LAKEVIEW | 2543.91 | 1226.85 | 3761.76 |
| CRENSHAW | 7566.96 | 3545.00 | 11111.96 | NEW BURTON | 610.40 | 203.00 | 813.40 | LEAF RIVER | 5304.79 | 3515.32 | 8820.11 | PARKVIEW/CREMMLIE | 25374.30 | 12558.87 | 37933.17 |
| ENID LAKE | 2067.36 | 840.11 | 2907.47 | OAK HILL | 1775.44 | 5977.28 | 7752.72 | LIBERTY | 1122.27 | 1295.77 | 2572.21 | PARKVIEW/LELAND | 1498.00 | 4018.00 | 5516.00 |
| ENON | 3601.00 | 1383.58 | 4984.58 | OSBORNE CREEK | 2012.89 | 3296.89 | 5309.78 | LORENA | 2583.32 | 1779.83 | 4363.15 | RIVERPORT | 600.00 | 2282.80 | 2882.80 |
| FBC BATESVILLE | 138429.15 | 53863.61 | 19229.76 | PINEY CREEK | 768.39 | 1387.41 | 2155.80 | MT CARMEL | 1752.01 | 1133.01 | 2657.02 | SECOND GREENVILLE | 10509.60 | 4018.00 | 5516.00 |
| FBC SARDIS | 39395.09 | 36053.38 | 75448.47 | PLEASANT GROVE | 393.75 | 778.75 | 1172.50 | MT PLEASANT | 1761.01 | 1565.54 | 3226.55 | SOCHTSIDE | 3942.24 | 3566.23 | 7508.47 |
| FIRST FAITH | 913.50 | 924.59 | 1838.09 | THRASHER | 2040.78 | 6952.40 | 8993.18 | MT ZION | 600.00 | 1870.00 | 2470.00 | VICTORY TEMPLE | 1699.39 | 1960.80 | 3660.19 |
| GOOD HOPE | 5111.58 | 6226.25 | 11337.83 | TRINITY | 0.00 | 214.00 | 214.00 | NEW HOME | 4486.58 | 5249.42 | 9736.00 | GLENDALE | 7594.76 | 6533.47 | 14128.23 |
| HEBRON | 5728.54 | 1181.35 | 6909.89 | TUSCUMBIA | 1279.00 | 4475.00 | 5754.00 | NEW SARDIS | 2750.44 | 2349.09 | 5099.53 | GREENFIELD | 2861.80 | 1546.36 | 4428.16 |
| IMMANUEL | 2283.28 | 2527.24 | 4810.52 | WHEELER | 5220.76 | 5392.42 | 10613.18 | OAK GROVE | 3092.25 | 8209.22 | 11301.47 | HOLLANDALE | 2547.96 | 18009.75 | 43657.71 |
| LIBERTY HILL | 7765.00 | 1910.00 | 9675.00 | TOTAL | 171579.22 | 169408.80 | 341060.02 | ROCKY HILL | 691.78 | 25.66 | 717.44 | LAKEVIEW | 2543.91 | 1226.85 | 3761.76 |
| LOCKE STATION | 5991.94 | 1854.75 | 7846.69 | SARDIS | 1920.22 | 2630.22 | 4530.44 | ROSE HILL | 1288.18 | 100.00 | 1388.18 | PARKVIEW/CREMMLIE | 25374.30 | 12558.87 | 37933.17 |
| MCIVOR | 1200.86 | 893.00 | 2093.86 | SALEM | 468.65 | 1873.56 | 2342.21 | SALEM | 1920.22 | 2630.22 | 4530.44 | RIVERPORT | 600.00 | 2282.80 | 2882.80 |
| NORTH BATESVILLE | 6923.65 | 1156.00 | 8079.65 | SARDIS | 1900.00 | 0.00 | 1900.00 | SALEM | 190.00 | 0.00 | 190.00 | SECOND GREENVILLE | 10509.60 | 4018.00 | 5516.00 |
| PEACH CREEK | 3853.38 | 6340.63 | 10194.01 | SATURDAY | 20782.21 | 9185.33 | 29967.54 | SARDIS | 1900.00 | 0.00 | 1900.00 | SOCHTSIDE | 3942.24 | 3566.23 | 7508.47 |
| PHARSALIA | 519.16 | 300.00 | 819.16 | SATURDAY | 7457.24 | 5192.30 | 12649.54 | SATURDAY | 20579.43 | 16343.33 | 36922.76 | VICTORY TEMPLE | 1699.39 | 1960.80 | 3660.19 |
| PILGRIMS REST | 6710.93 | 1758.00 | 8468.93 | SATURDAY | 94480.94 | 30731.99 | 12521.93 | SATURDAY | 6057.92 | 1758.82 | 1926.85 | GLENDALE | 7594.76 | | |

TLW speaker: teens not 'blue light special'

ATLANTA (BP) — Even if she received no candy for Valentine's Day, a 50-year-old single New Orleans author and storyteller said she would go to bed that night feeling like the Queen of Sheba.

Her sense of worth does not depend on a man's attention, said Gwen Williams. A relationship with Jesus Christ is what gives her confidence, she said, declaring that a commitment to Christ is essential for young people wanting to keep their pledge to wait until marriage to have sex.

"I ain't slept with nobody but my teddy bear ... and that's a stuffed bear," Williams told 1,100 youth attending a True Love Waits (TLW) conference at

Greenforest Community Church in suburban Atlanta. "Jesus is keeping me, and he will give you the strength to wait."

The conference was held in conjunction with the annual True Love Waits Goes Campus campaign, sponsored by the



Minister urges parents to practice what they preach

ATLANTA (BP) — Parents must structure their families around biblical principles if they expect to survive as family units, a minister, husband, and father told 100 parents and youth leaders Feb. 14.

biblical foundations and drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse.

Using Ephesians 4 as text, Lockhart said parents need to be honest with their children, and honesty includes practicing what you preach.

"No matter how good the content of our verbal lessons, our children will learn primarily from the way we live. You say you drink, but you don't want your children to drink. It doesn't work that way," Lockhart said.

Children will get false cues from the world and sometimes the church, Lockhart said, noting that one area where the church is at fault is asking a sports or television star who has recently confessed Christ as Savior to talk to youth.

That person is a babe in Christ and needs to mature before he becomes a spokesperson for the gospel, Lockhart said. Youth also need reality checks when it comes to superstars.

Of the youth who graduate from high school and play basketball in college, only nine or 10 of that million will be professional players, and half of them won't be starters.

"They have a better chance of being an aeronautical engineer," Lockhart said.

The Ephesians passage also admonishes Christian to refrain from sinning in anger and to settle disputes quickly.

"You can express displeasure with a given activity, but there are limits on how far you can go," he said.

From verse 29, Lockhart said parents need to speak to their children with affirmation. "To condemn them created a track in the child's mind. It programs them" to think negatively about themselves, he said.

The biblical picture of family is built on love, Lockhart said.

"Love is something you do,

Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Launched on Valentine's Day 1997 and held again Feb. 13, the campaign gives teens who make a pledge to sexual abstinence the opportunity to display their commitment cards at school.

Created in April 1993 by Sunday School Board officials, True Love Waits is an international campaign that challenges teenagers and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

Williams acknowledged that sexual satisfaction can be a temptation. Yet when she's tempted, "the Spirit of God says, 'You better leave that alone. That's not yours.' I'm celibate because Christ lives in me."

Williams noted that 1 Peter 2:9 refers to Christians as part of a holy nation and royal priesthood and that the psalmist says God's people are fearfully and wonderfully made. "You are fantastic. Quit letting Satan mess with you," she said.

A healthy self-image is an important tool for teenagers to use to resist sexual temptation, Williams said, using several analogies to make her point.

"We are not a K-Mart blue light special. You say you want to try before you buy.

You can look, but you don't cook your food and eat it before you pay for it."

"Sometimes I get to the gate and look out because I'm curious, but the Holy Spirit pulls me in," she said. "Inside the gate you don't have to worry about HIV or flunking out of school. Going to college is inside the gate. Joy is inside the gate."

On April 14, True Love Waits leaders are expected to deliver the results of the latest campaign effort True Love Waits Goes Campus, to national and state government leaders.

Officials are hoping to have two figures — those who participated in the latest campaign and those who have signed abstinence pledges since the movement was created in 1993.

Individuals who have signed abstinence pledges in the past and schools, churches or clubs that participated in the Goes Campus event this year may fax their reports to (615) 251-2830, send them via e-mail to truelovewaits@bssb.com, or issue them electronically through an on-line reporting mechanism at www.bssb.com/tlw.base.htm.

For more information, call 1-800-LUV WAIT.

Sunday School Board, True Love Waits is an international campaign that challenges teenagers and college students to remain sexually abstinent until marriage.

Created in April 1993 by



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I am a recovering alcoholic who is tempted to drink whenever I get depressed — almost like a demonic possession. When I am not depressed, these thoughts never occur to me.

The real issue for you is the depression. You should immediately consult your physician and describe what you are going through. Depression is a clinical condition that can be treated in many cases. Depression has been defined as "frozen rage," and "anger turner inward." It is often caused by feelings of being overwhelmed, trying to deal with the pressure, and not getting any relief. This downward progression results in discouragement and depression, and the affected person seeks escape outlets such as drinking. There is a real sense of grief, so it is important to remember our Lord's beatitude on mourning: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." (Matt. 5:4 NIV) Your condition could be felt as oppression. You are frightened and overwhelmed. Pray for strength to overcome this condition, and

don't wait any longer to talk with your physician.

Sexual temptation is ruining my otherwise "storybook" life. More than anything else in my life, I want to control these urges.

Study 1 Cor. 10:13, James 4:7, and 1 Peter 5:8-9. You are not alone; the temptations you are experiencing are present in all of us. In analyzing this problem, you must truthfully ask yourself if this is a biological/hormonal problem or simply a regression to sinful behavior from which you once derived pleasure or satisfaction. Most people cannot defeat these urges on their own, and Christian counseling is strongly recommended. (Everyone expects a counselor to recommend counseling, but it's really not as bad as a tax audit.) Christian counseling can help you understand the roots of your sexual temptations and guide you toward appropriate expressions of your sexuality. With counseling, you may even discover these feelings are quite normal — and controllable.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



TAKING THE PLEDGE — Chris Newcome (right) signs a True Love Waits pledge card as Crystal James staples already-signed cards to stakes for a display Feb. 13 at McGavock High School in Nashville. During lunch periods the week of Feb. 9-13, James set up a True Love Waits display table giving classmates the opportunity to sign a commitment to sexual abstinence until marriage. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

"The family's ability to withstand the world's destructive pressure is directly related to the position of authority Christ has in your household," Pennon Lockhart said during a True Love Waits conference at Greenforest Community Baptist Church in College Park, Ga.

The conference was held in conjunction with the annual True Love Waits Goes Campus campaign, sponsored by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"We live in a world that destroys families," Lockhart said, listing as family enemies materialism, divorce, homosexuality, humanism, media messages about what should be glorified, public education without

TLW pledgers pray & worship, study shows

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Teenagers who take a pledge of virginity, have loving parents, and regard religion and prayer as important are the least likely of all adolescents to report engaging in early sexual behavior, according to a recent study reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Conversely, teenagers who appear older than their peers, work 20 or more hours a week and have same-sex attractions or behaviors are more likely to have reported having sex at an earlier age, according to the federally funded National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health (popularly referred to as "Add Health").

The research was conducted to identify risks to adolescent health and to pinpoint specific factors that might guard against those risks.

The Add Health study looked at the emotional health of teenagers and their inclination toward violence, substance abuse, and sexual behavior.

The group of 90,118 students who completed the initial questionnaire represented all U.S. students in grades seven through 12.

Approximately 17% of seventh- and eighth-graders surveyed and almost half (49.8%) of ninth- through 12th-graders said they had engaged in sexual intercourse.

However, those who reported they had taken a pledge to virginity were at "significantly lower risk of early age sexual debut" — a fact that did not seem to surprise the authors of the study.

"We expect that young people who indicate they have taken a public or written virginity pledge hold a certain set of beliefs about themselves, about relationships, about adolescent sexual behaviors," said Michael D. Resnick, director of the National Teen Pregnancy Prevention Research Center, University of Minnesota, and one of the authors of the study.

"We also expect that these young people would indeed be true abstinent campaign before heading to class. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

more likely than their counterparts to indicate a later age of first intercourse."

Nearly 16% of the females and 10% of the males reported

Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's sexual abstinence campaign, "True Love Waits."

"As the study notes, a virginity pledge is a far more pow-

erful indicator of sexual abstinence than any other factor studied," Ross said.

It is going to be very difficult for our critics to discount this research," he contended.

Other indicators that suggested teens would hold off on sex included:

- Parental disapproval of sex and contraception.
- High levels of engage-

tiate intercourse at a younger age, but they were also more likely to use cigarettes, alcohol, and marijuana.

Funded through a grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development with contributions from 17 other federal agencies, the Add Health study was conducted by researchers from the University of Minnesota and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

A total of 12,118 teens in grades seven through 12 completed a 90-minute, in-home interview.

That group was drawn from a total group of 90,118 students from high schools across the country who completed a 30-minute questionnaire.

On April 14, True Love Waits leaders are expected to deliver the results of the latest campaign effort, True Love Waits Goes Campus, to national and state government leaders.

Officials are hoping to have two figures — those who participated in the latest campaign and those who have signed abstinence pledges since 1993.



STAKING THE PLEDGE — Brooke Savage (center) and Kelly Eidson (right) stake signed True Love Waits pledge cards around the flagpole at Greenbrier High School in Greenbrier, Tenn., where they are students. Six high schools and middle schools in the area participated in the display of True Love Waits pledge cards on Feb. 13. The pledge cards give teens an opportunity to publicly commit to sexual abstinence prior to marriage. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)



PRAYING THE PLEDGE — A group of Greenbrier High School students who staked True Love Waits pledge cards around the flagpole at their school Feb. 13 pray for the sexual abstinence campaign before heading to class. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

Jesus Christ

*Requests the Honor
of Your Presence
in Heaven!*

YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (*I have sinned.*)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (*I repent.*)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (*I believe in Jesus.*)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. (*I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.*)

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

Students challenged to evangelize

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — More than 400 university students were challenged to invest their lives in the "10/40 Window" during Beyond '98, the annual missions conference at Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., Feb. 13-15.

With its highest attendance in recent years, the event aimed students toward service in an area that stretches from northern Africa through the Middle East and southern Asia. — the land mass between 40 degrees and 10 degrees latitude above the equator that represents more than 2,100 people groups, totaling nearly 2 billion people, who have little access to the gospel.

Internet seen as key anti-gambling weapon

WASHINGTON (BP) — In the same way anti-tobacco forces used subpoena power to prove that tobacco companies knew their products were addictive, the same strategy also may prove effective with the gambling industry, according to testimony posted on the Internet site of the nation's leading anti-gambling organization.

"We believe that documents exist which prove that the leaders of the gambling industry are also fully aware of the nature of their product," Bernard Horn, communications director for the Washington-based Coalition Against Legalized Gambling (NCALG), said while testifying before the National Gambling Impact Study Commission last August.

"They know that many of their customers suffer from gambling addiction, a medically recognized mental disorder," Horn testified. "They know that a huge percentage of their profits are earned from gambling addicts. And they respond by designing gambling games and establishments in ways to encourage and exploit this addiction."

Horn's complete testimony is one of many resources NCALG offers via its site on the Internet's World Wide Web.

The site — ncalg.org — is among a growing number of websites in which anti-gambling groups can garner much-needed resources to combat legalized gambling.

NCALG offers free fact sheets, article excerpts from national publications, statistics, poll results, and quotes from noted experts.

Perhaps just as importantly, the organization's website provides e-mail addresses and telephone numbers for President Clinton, Vice President Gore, every member of Congress, and major news media outlets ranging from *Newsweek* to Rush Limbaugh, additionally giving tips on how to write effective letters to legislators and the news media.

NCALG also states it will provide research and technical and fund-raising support to state groups battling the expansion of gambling. The site is interactive as well (e-mail at ncalg@ncalg.org).

Over the past two years, NCALG and its affiliates have beaten the gambling industry in statewide gambling referenda in Florida, Oklahoma, Colorado, Wyoming, Rhode Island, and Minnesota.

The organization also has scored legislative victories in 27 states during the same period.

The gambling industry, meanwhile, maintains more than a dozen websites, yet "despite massive efforts by the gambling promoters, only one state legalized casinos or slot machines in 1995-96," NCALG stated in one of its website press releases.

Among other NCALG goals noted on its website:

- ♦ Fighting for a new federal law to curtail gambling mania. (In 1974 \$17 billion was legally wagered in the United States. By 1995 it was over \$500 billion.)

- ♦ Reaching out to other national, state and local groups for support, especially in the fields of retail business, entertainment, mental health, and law enforcement.

- ♦ Acting as a clearinghouse through its National Information Center and anti-gambling Internet site.

Anti-gambling groups in individual states are discovering the power of the internet as well. One such group, Oklahomans Against Casinos (OAC), launched its own website — www.no-casinos.org — prior to the Feb. 10 statewide referendum on legalized gambling.

The site included quotes from the state's political leaders who oppose casinos, anti-gambling editorials from newspapers from around the state and a list of more than 100 state lawmakers who oppose legalized gambling.

"Today's technology offers a powerful means of communicating with voters," Oklahoma state Rep. Forrest Clauch, OAC chairman, told the Oklahoma Baptist Messenger, newsmagazine of Oklahoma Baptist, prior to the Feb. 10 referendum.

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LIFE AND WORK

Mary: A new and unexpected direction

Luke 1:26-38, 46-49

By Jim Burnett

When is the last time God did something in your life you would describe as incredible, new, or adventurous? Has he surprised you lately? Or has your Christianity become dull and predictable?

Today's lesson begins a seven-week study entitled "Changed Lives." With Dr. Luke's assistance, we will understand the new dimensions and changes Christ can bring to persons whom obey God's will. Mary, the mother of Jesus is our first example for study.

Sudden Interruption (1:26-28). Can you imagine standing in Mary's sandals face to face with an angel named Gabriel?



Burnett

Just the sight of him would be breath taking. But what if he began to speak and his words to you were, "You will have a pivotal role in the Messiah's birth?" That was Mary's experience; one that she would never forget. It was the day God burst forth into her life and invited her toward a new direction, a new identity. Our God still visits his children. He comes into our routine, mundane days and solicits us for his divine purposes.

Surprise message (1:29-33). Mary was astonished at what her ears were hearing. She struggled to make sense of the heavenly encounter. Gabriel quickly calmed Mary's fears and explained the reason for

his presence. He told her she was the recipient of God's wonderful grace and that soon she would birth his Son, Jesus. God caught Mary by surprise. Although she had been longing for the Messiah's arrival like the other Jews, she never dreamed she would be involved in his physical delivery. And being a virgin, that was virtually impossible.

God continues to surprise his people today, catching them off guard and inviting them to do extraordinary things for him. He is full of mystery. His ways and thoughts are far above ours. But in his mercy and grace, he continues to stoop low and invite us to be major players in accomplishing his purposes. Are you ready for God to explode upon the scenes of your life and use you for his glory?

Sufficient Power (1:34-37). Although Mary was elated at the news that she would mother the Son of God, she mentally

wrestled with the methodology of how this would take place in light of her virginity. The angel gently responded to Mary's inquiry by assuring her God's Spirit would provide what was needed for the Immaculate Conception. To prove God's capability and dependability, Gabriel told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth "in her old age" was six months with child.

Never doubt your heavenly Father's abilities, for truly "nothing is impossible with God." Our father delights in dazzling us with his providence. He loves to blaze trails and paths for us where there are none. Providing needed power and energy for his children is God's specialty. So don't be overwhelmed when God requests you to attempt the impossible. Just realize the Lord of the impossible accompanies you on your mission.

Submissive Response (1:38). Mary's response to God's request inspires us to simply take God at his word

and follow his plan without question. Like Isaiah who said to God, "Here I am, send me", Mary made herself available. We should do likewise. Let us not alibi and make excuses when divine opportunities arise, but embrace them and experience God's rich blessings that come to those who obey.

Spontaneous Joy (1:46-49). Gabriel's revelation to Mary was too exciting to contain. Her news had to be shared and what better place to start than with family. She scurried off to cousin Elizabeth's house and upon entering her home, a great celebration erupted. A heavenly joy was in the air. They were totally absorbed in the fact that God was working in their lives.

God's children should constantly be celebrating the Lord's activity in their lives. The fact that some Christians are not or cannot may indicate a disobedient heart.

Burnett is pastor of Raymond Road Church, Jackson.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Responding to the Savior

Matthew 1:18-23; 2:1-2, 10-11

By Harold W. Simmons

This week we begin a new unit of study which is a survey of the New Testament. The first seven lessons will focus on the life and ministry of Jesus. This week the emphasis is on the birth of Jesus.

A miraculous conception (1:18-20). Never before and never since has a child been born of such miraculous circumstance—a human mother and God for a father. I believe God chose the unusual birth because it was the most believable method of introducing his Son onto the human scene. The Son of God would be at once totally

human and totally divine. To have true identification with mankind, this savior must become like as we are in all ways. To be the sacrifice for our sins, he must be totally sinless and without blame. Therefore, the sacrifice must be divine, for only God is perfect and without sin.

To save us from our sin (1:21). The birth event involved the whole family. She (Mary) will give birth to a son, and you (Joseph) are to give him the name Jesus... (1:21a NIV). The process of birth and naming of the child appears to be the norman pattern in Jewish families (see Luke



Simmons

1:13). However, the reason for the name, Jesus, (Greek) or Joshua (Hebrew), Matthew spelled out clearly—because he will save his people from their sins. The birth was unique as was the life mission to save mankind from their sins.

A promise kept (1:22-23). God has faithfully kept any promise he made and—through the birth of his Son—he kept the promise he made through the prophet Isaiah (7:14). Almost 800 years prior to this event God had over and over reminded his people that he would send a Messiah to redeem them. The birth was also the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant that he would bless Abraham and that Abraham would be a blessing to all mankind.

Sought by Gentiles (2:1-2).

The first visitors to the humble birthplace were simple Jewish shepherds. In these verses, Matthew told of the visit of the wisemen from the east. Matthew does not identify the wisemen by their name nor does he tell us how many of them there were. Because they offered three kinds of gifts, we have assumed that they were three in number. However, Matthew did identify the wisemen as non-Jews or Gentiles. I believe Matthew intended to demonstrate the universal interest in the birth of a savior.

Response to Jesus (2:10-11). More than once in the second chapter, Matthew related that the wisemen had traveled and searched for the one born king of the Jews in order to worship him. Evidently, the wisemen recognized that he was worthy of adoration. They continued to worship him by offering

very valuable gifts to him from their treasure.

Herod had a very different reaction to Jesus. For Herod, Jesus was a threat with which he must deal. Herod like all other despots reacted by trying to put the king-child to death.

It is my opinion that these two ancient responses to Jesus are the very same responses that modern mankind gives to Jesus. We respond to his love and sacrifice by accepting him as the Messiah who came to save us from our sin. Or, we reject the savior and do everything in our power to destroy him.

Later in the scripture, Jesus says that we are either for him or against him. I earnestly hope that you are worshiping Jesus!

Simmons is pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

Sharing the Good News

Mark 1:1, 4, 7-20

By Debbie Sills

Mark, the shortest and simplest of the four gospels, gives a fast paced look at the life of Christ. He tells the story of the servant who constantly ministers to others through his actions. Unlike the other gospels, Mark is a topical narrative of Christ's teaching and works. Mark recalls eighteen miracles in his book to demonstrate not only the power of Christ, but also his compassion for others. As we study Mark over the next few weeks, we will see the Lord vividly portrayed as a servant and a sacrifice.

A Plan (1:1). Mark's plan for writing this gospel was to share



Sills

the good news about Jesus, the Son of God. Mark directed his words to an audience that knew little about Old Testament theology. He needed to present Jesus to them not only as a good man who once walked the face of the earth with them, but as the Son of God.

He is divine. The going trend is a lack of basic knowledge of what is in the Bible. Many do not even have a concept of Jesus being a part of the trinity. Mark reminds us of his deity.

A Preacher (1:4). The next few verses give an account of the ministry of John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Messiah. John the Baptist

preached that people would be forgiven if they repented of their sins. He preached they should be baptized as a sign of their repentance.

A Prophecy (1:7-8). Many people feel overwhelmed by their circumstances. Each of us struggle to live by the godly standards set before us in the Bible. When frustration and anger overcomes us, it is easy to revert back to our old ways of handling things. Many realize they do not have the strength and character to live a godly life. John the Baptist realized Jesus' power and told the people one mightier than he would come to baptize people with the Holy Spirit. Jesus gives us the power to live righteously. Through Jesus, we have the strength to shine our light even when darkness is all around us.

A Person (1:9-15). We have studied many times about Jesus' baptism and know it marked the beginning of his ministry. It established his deity and the role of Messiah. But Jesus was also baptized as a repenting soul. His baptism also was a baptism of the confession of sins. But the repentance and confession of sins were not for himself. In that moment he identified himself with the multitudes who had been assembling for baptism. In this passage we see perhaps the greatest sight of the Son of God. He took upon himself the burden of human sin as if it were his own sin. He then went out and began to proclaim the good news that the kingdom of God was at hand.

A Purpose (1:16-20). Simon, Andrew, and James and John the sons of Zebedee had met Jesus earlier. They knew who he was and chose to follow

him. Jesus presented to the four fishermen a call to join him in his mission to proclaim the kingdom of God. They did not hesitate, but followed immediately. They had a purpose in life. Often times we feel we have no purpose or meaning in our lives. We search and try different things looking for something to make us feel like we have a reason to be here. We want to make a difference in what we do, but we have no joy in our life. Jesus gives us purpose and meaning in each of our lives. We are to follow him and share the good news about Christ with others. There is no greater joy and fulfillment than what we get when we share what is precious to us. Strive to share Jesus through your actions and your words each day with those around you.

Sills is advertising coordinator for The Baptist Record.

Teens, adults among faithful 'Veggie' fans

By Tim Ellsworth
The Illinois Baptist



CHICAGO (BP) — Larry and Bob are pretty much ordinary, run-of-the-mill, next-door neighbor type of guys — for the most part. They're friendly, cheerful, and likable.

Except, they're vegetables.

Larry the Cucumber and Bob the Tomato are the two stars of "VeggieTales," a hit video series created primarily for children which teaches Bible and moral lessons.

The nine videos, produced by Big Idea Productions of Chicago, have sold 2.7 million copies in four years.

Even though Larry and Bob are exceptionally popular with kids, they've also been embraced by another group pretty far removed from children — teens and young adults.

"My kids just love it," said Grant Medford, youth minister from Calvary Church, Alton, Ill., referring to his youth group. "We watch them over and over again. I think they're great."

Rachel Hamilton, a sophomore at Glenwood High School, Chatham, Ill., took one of her VeggieTales videos to her Spanish class. The video contained a song, "Dance of the Cucumber," sung mainly in Spanish.

The whole class loved that song so much, they kept watching. "We watched basically the whole thing," Hamilton said.

"People have borrowed my tape. They all like them a lot."

VeggieTales creator Phil Vischer attributes much of the popularity of VeggieTales among teens and young adults to the cynical, sarcastic nature of many in the younger generations.

Vischer said a lot of children's entertainment, like Barney and Mr. Rogers, is completely sincere. With the breakdown of the family in the past few years, however, young adults have become suspicious of sincerity.

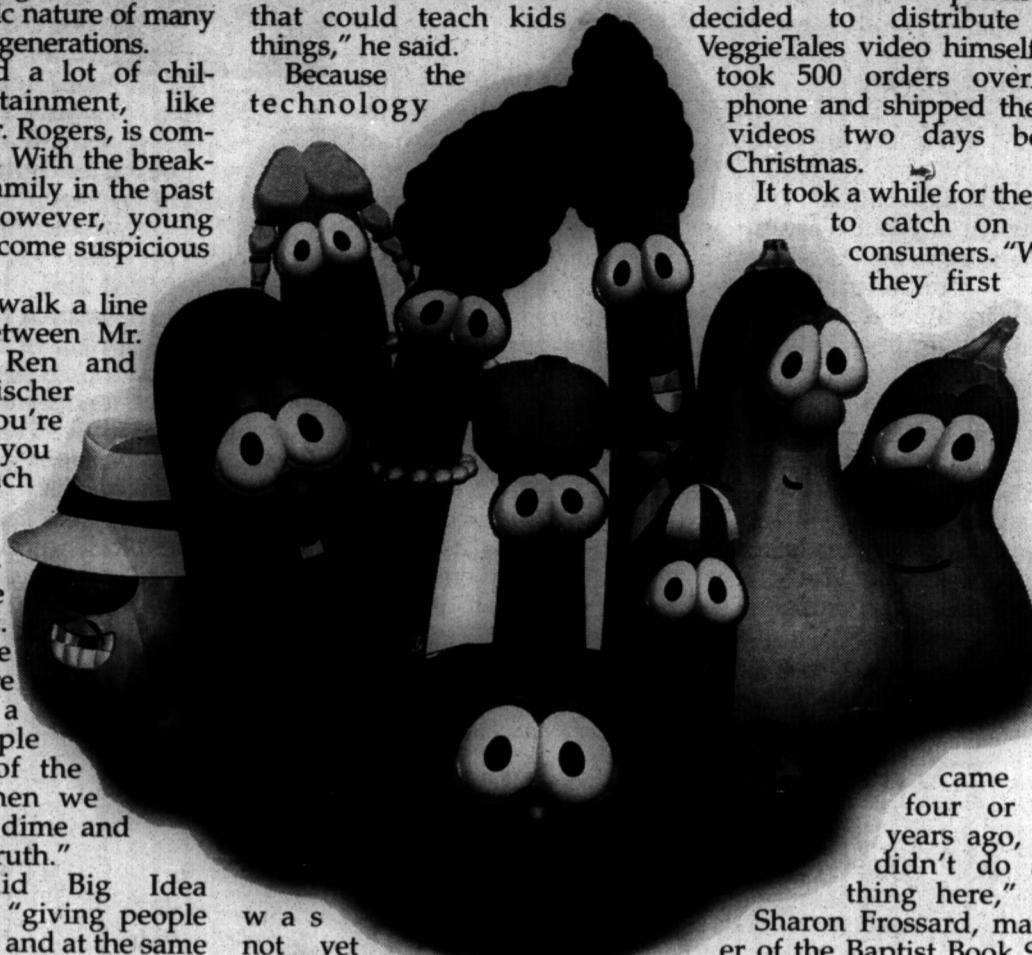
"We try to walk a line halfway in between Mr. Rogers and Ren and Stimpy," Vischer said. "If you're never sincere, you can never teach anyone anything. If you're completely sincere, people can't stand it. By striking the balance, we are able to create a product people like because of the humor, but then we can stop on a dime and communicate truth."

Vischer said Big Idea Productions is "giving people what they need and at the same time giving them what they want."

VeggieTales, which are completely computer animated, got their start about eight years ago

when Vischer, 31, put an idea into motion. He had previously worked in the corporate world as a computer animator but had always "wanted to tell stories and use characters that could teach kids things," he said.

Because the technology



came out four or five years ago, they didn't do anything here," said

Sharon Frossard, manager of the Baptist Book Store in Carterville, Ill.

"They were real slow to catch on. My first reaction was, 'Who wants a video about a bunch of vegetables?'" she said.

Since then, primarily by word of mouth, Vischer said, the popularity of VeggieTales has exploded.

A year ago, Vischer had nine people on staff at Big Idea. He now has 40 people working for him. Word Music, meanwhile, handles the distribution.

"I can't keep them in stock," Frossard said. "I place a Word Music order every other week, and I order VeggieTales videos every time I order. They're a constant seller."

Most of the VeggieTales videos tell a Bible story — "Josh and the Big Wall" is about the fall of Jericho; "Dave and the Giant Pickle" is about David and Goliath.

Others teach moral lessons: "Larry Boy and the Fib from Outer Space" emphasizes the importance of telling the truth. All the videos contain a number of catchy songs.

While Vischer includes a lot of humor in the stories, he is careful not to obstruct truth with humor.

"You always have to know what is sacred," he said. "When we are in a teaching method, there are no jokes."

"I don't think we ever make fun of the truth behind the story, but you can put interesting characters into the story, and they can react in very funny ways," Vischer continued.

"Anything that isn't sacred you can have fun with."

Bibliocipher

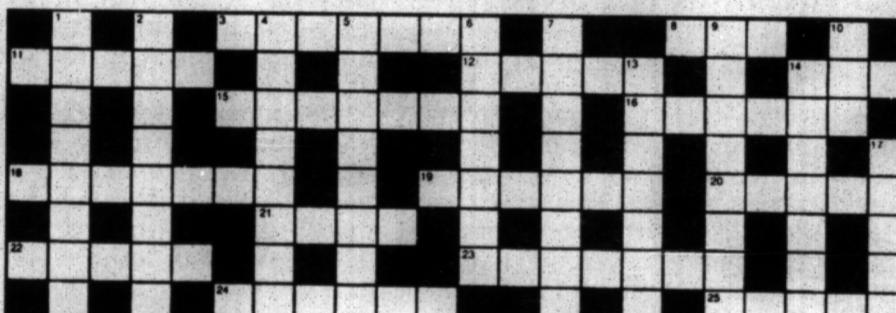
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S WO AYRR ERYWJYM.
OWPV KXY: YRYUYX

Clue: L = T

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Matthew One Twenty-Three

OCCUPATIONS CROSSWORD



AICIRIOISIS →
3. Christians receive the Spirit of this. (Rom. 8:15)
8. Children of wicked men do this. (Ps. 109:10)
II. Gideon went up by this route and routed an army. (singular) (Judg. 8:11)
12. Manasseh was a maker of these. (2 Chron. 33:22)
14. Jesus did this on the throne. (Rev. 3:21)
15. Birds will eat this at the great supper of God. (singular) (Rev. 19:18)
16. To bury Gog, Israel will do this regularly with men. (Ezek. 39:14)
18. Jesus made us to be a kingdom and these. (Rev. 1:6)
19. Jehoiakim became this under Nebuchadnezzar. (Zech. 12:4)
20. When Jerusalem is made an immovable rock; every one of these will be struck with madness. (Zech. 12:4)
21. Amaziah told Amos to do this with bread in Judah. (Amos 7:12)
22. This will be cut off from Babylon; it will be done to her as she did for others. (Jer. 50:16)
23. Jesus was led as a lamb before this. (Acts 8:32)
24. Joseph was in charge of all men here. (Gen. 39:22)
25. When the master returns from the wedding banquet he will dress himself to do this. (Luke 12:37)

DIOIWIN ↓
1. Joseph's position in Egypt. (Gen. 42:6)
2. Jesus' father is this. (John 15:1)
4. This person in the church must be above reproach. (I Tim. 3:2)
5. King Xerxes told these to serve each man in the citadel of Susa what he wished. (Est. 1:8)
6. James, Peter and John were reputed to be these. (Gal. 2:9)
7. Solomon's men worked with these servants of Hiram. (2 Chron. 2:10)
9. Paul made his appeal for whose decision? (Acts 25:21)
10. James said the rich people failed to do this for the work-men. (James 5:4)
13. Neheriah warned these men not to spend the night outside Jerusalem or he would lay hands on them. (Neh. 13:20-21)
14. Naaman's occupation. (2 Kings 5:1)
17. Charioteers do this furiously. (Jer. 46:9)

SAMES **S N** **N O S I M P** **M**
A **S M B V E H E** **G** **S U E M O S**
I **I O** **S N M** **N O V** **N M**
M B O I U **T V E G V A** **V** **S A B I M D**
G **I 3** **3 0** **M M** **G 3**
A **O D W** **O T V E M D** **M A**
A V **E** **S T O O L** **A A** **G V O N**
C **D E** **M** **E H E N O S** **D D**

Source: *NIV Bible Crosswords* by Rick Jansen (Zondervan Publishing House, 1991), available at your local bookstore or by calling 800-737-3480.